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Britain's newspaper
for Europe

The Guardian

EUROPE



Richard Scott, page 8



G2 cover story



Education, G2 pages 12-13

Export ban on British beef lifted – now the massive task begins of restoring consumer confidence in Europe

Back on the menu

Stephen Bates in Brussels and James Melville

B RITAIN was last night facing the massive task of restoring foreign consumer confidence in its beef after finally winning the battle to have the 33-month export ban lifted.

The Government, farmers and the meat industry tempered jubilation at winning a crucial vote at a meeting of European Union agriculture ministers by acknowledging how hard it would be to recover overseas markets worth \$20 billion in 1995, the year before the ban.

A European consumer group warned confidence in beef remained "shaky" and Tony Blair conceded that win-

ning back trade would take "time and effort".

Exports are not expected to start from England, Wales and Scotland until late February or March because conditions still have to be inspected by EU officials. Sales from Northern Ireland, where the export ban was lifted in June, are still said to be minuscule despite heavy marketing.

The European Commission is tomorrow expected to rubber-stamp the ending of the ban, which has cost the British beef industry more than \$4 billion. It will set out the formal steps for lifting the embargo imposed by a 14-1 EU vote in March 1995, a week after the government admitted a probable link between BSE and new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, a fatal condition thought to have killed 30 people since 1995.

Only Germany held out against allowing British ex-

ports to resume at the agriculture ministers' meeting yesterday. Its diplomats said they accepted the measures Britain had introduced but wanted to be sure they were effective. Luxembourg, Spain, Austria and France abstained.

Last night Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, said: "This is clearly good news for our beef industry. It will be difficult to rebuild markets but if we do not make a start now we will never get on with it. There may be residual consumer prejudice although that is unfair because our beef is among the safest in the western world."

Exports from Britain must all be deboned beef from cattle whose own histories and those of their mothers can be clearly traced as free of suspected BSE. There will be strict abattoir checks and, as in Britain, no beef for human consumption can be from cat-

tle older than 30 months.

The Government will have to show that a compulsory cull of the remaining 4,700 cattle born since 1996 whose mothers subsequently developed BSE is being carried out – about 800 such animals have already been killed by farmers voluntarily.

More than 4 million cattle have been slaughtered because of the BSE crisis and that number could double by the time Britain is free of the epidemic. The cost to EU and British taxpayers, including compensation to farmers, will top \$4 billion.

The EU decision will increase pressure on the Government to end its domestic ban on beef-on-the-bone imposed last December, a step ministers have said can only be taken if scientific advisers give the all-clear.

The tough task of rebuilding overseas markets was rec-

ognised by Ben Gill, president of the National Farmers' Union, but he said the end of the ban would bring "a tremendous sense of relief to livestock farmers".

Colin Maclean, director general of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said: "All of us must be realistic. Even if all our previous markets wanted to come back to us straightaway we would not be able to satisfy their requirements and it will be some time before we start selling beef abroad again in any massive quantities."

The European Consumers' Federation, representing 24 national consumer bodies, said: "There is a pretty strong anti-British sentiment and the general feeling among consumer groups was actually against lifting the ban."

Shadow agriculture minister Tim Yeo said: "The Government must now press

ahead to get the European agriculture ministers to agree to include beef-on-the-bone in the lifting of the export ban."

"They could immediately strengthen their case in this regard by lifting the domestic ban and in doing so give an immediate vote of confidence in the quality of British beef."

"Without this it may be hard for the British government to persuade others to buy a product they themselves appear to have so little confidence in."

The original ban provoked John Major into launching a campaign of non-cooperation with the EU in a short-lived and unsuccessful attempt to force a resumption of exports. Mr Brown said: "The tactics then were ridiculous. Mr Major said he would get the ban lifted by November but he did not say which year."

PHOTOGRAPH: NURDO MACLEOD



Social worker killed in stabbing at hostel

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A SOCIAL worker was stabbed to death yesterday in an incident at a hostel for people with mental health problems in south London.

The 51-year-old woman was taken to St George's hospital, Tooting, with multiple wounds to the stomach. She was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police said last night that a man, aged 26, had been arrested at the scene and was being held in custody.

The incident comes as the Government is poised to unveil a package of measures, and investment of up to \$1 billion, to overhaul the provision of care in the community and improve safeguards for care workers and the public.

Part of the package will be the opening of more hostels for people with mental illness, offering round-the-clock care and supervision. That

yesterday's killing took place in such a hostel shows that safety can never be guaranteed.

Chris Davies, president of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said last night: "No one should have to pay this price for the work they choose to do."

It is believed that the woman, who worked for Wandsworth council, but was not being named until relatives had been contacted, had been visiting a client at the council-run hostel in Balham.

A Metropolitan Police spokeswoman said officers called to the scene found that the social worker had suffered a number of stab wounds. The hospital declared her dead 20 minutes later.

Wandsworth has recently started to make \$10 million in social services cuts, but a council spokesman said there was "no question" of savings having been made – or being planned – in mental health services.

Mr Davies said: "Our thoughts are with our colleague's family, friends and workmates. This is a tragedy for all concerned."

He added: "The vast majority of people who have our help are no more dangerous than the rest of us, but the staff of social services departments do face threats and encounter violence in the course of the work they do on the community's behalf."

Staff who specialised in mental health work were brave, resilient and caring", Mr Davies said.

A report published today shows that national newspapers pay little attention to this side of social work, or to aspects of social work that are courageous, or to the field's achievements.

Instead, the main papers criticise and ridicule the profession for incompetence and failure, according to the survey conducted by Bob Franklin, reader in media studies at the University of Sheffield.

Seminal case of ownership to go before US judges

Martin Kettle in Washington

FOR DECADES, American politics has been dominated by the pregnant issue of whether a woman has a right to choose whether to be a mother. Now, in a case that can only be called seminal for the politics of conception, a man is demanding the right to choose whether to be a father.

In a court case which begins tomorrow in New Mexico, a man is claiming unprecedented property rights over his own semen.

Peter Wallis maintains that his girlfriend, Kellie Smith, intentionally got pregnant during a relationship in which they had agreed that she would take the birth control pill.

In his claim, filed in Albuquerque, Mr Wallis is accusing Ms Smith of "intentionally acquiring and misusing" his semen dur-

ing unprotected intercourse.

He accuses Ms Smith of breach of contract, fraud and conversion of property because she became pregnant with his semen.

The couple split up and stopped living together when Ms Smith became pregnant. Ms Smith had a baby girl, named Taylor, last year.

Ms Smith counters that she became pregnant accidentally, not deliberately. She says the semen should be regarded as a gift, and claims that Mr Wallis "surrendered any right of possession to his own semen when he transferred it during voluntary sexual intercourse".

Mr Wallis, a 36-year-old estate agent, says the couple agreed early on in their relationship that Ms Smith would take the birth control pill – an agreement that amounted to a legal contract.

Ms Smith says there was never any agreement, but that she never stopped taking the pill when the relationship began. Her lawyer, Mery Hen, says that here is a test case for fathers seeking to avoid financial responsibility for their children by blaming the mothers for failing to use birth control.

"If he was so adamant, why didn't he use a condom or, excuse me, just not emit?" Ms Han said yesterday.

Some men's groups are seeing the case as a defining battle in their attempts to reduce what they see as women's control over conception and its consequences.

Barbara Rothman, a sociologist who has been monitoring the case, says that the lawsuit is proof that hi-tech fertility techniques have turned semen into just another product that can be bought and sold, donated and banked.

Austin

IT LOOKS BAD, BUT MAYBE BRIGITE BAKOT WILL SAVE US.

Inside

There is a pretty strong anti-British sentiment. At every level of society there is a deep-rooted lack of confidence. The belief is that BSE is very prevalent in the UK. There is also a general lack of confidence in the inspection and surveillance measures. View from Europe, page 4

I'm delighted the ban has been lifted, but I can't see it is going to do a lot of good in the near future. View from the farm, page 4

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An Italian priest has shocked Roman Catholic clergy by declaring that he has helped to arrange abortions. Page 6

Our e-mail address for editorial comments is europa@guardian.co.uk

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Inquiry into IVF link to cancer

Sarah Bosley

A MAJOR study to establish whether women who have fertility treatment are at risk of getting ovarian cancer was announced yesterday.

Anxiety over a possible link have been voiced for some time, backed by small-scale research in other countries.

Liz Tilberis, the British editor of the US fashion magazine Harper's Bazaar, believes her own ovarian cancer, which nearly killed her, was caused by the powerful drugs used in IVF to stimulate the ovaries into producing eggs.

"It is my deeply held belief that my cancer is linked to having my ovaries with fertility drugs," she said.

She wrote a biography called *No Time To Die* "to highlight the controversy within the scientific community over these drugs — a controversy which suppresses the growing evidence implicating them".

Two scientists, backed by the Cancer Research Campaign, will investigate the cases of nearly 3,000 women to try to establish whether IVF drugs pose a cancer risk and if so how great it is.

Previous studies have suggested that any risk may only become apparent several decades after women have had IVF treatment.

The large British study has been made possible only because one London-based endocrinologist, a specialist in glands like the ovaries, has unusually kept extensive records of the 6,000 women she saw over a 30-year career to 1993.

Some 2,700 of Jean Ginsburg's patients, whose progress she monitored for an average of 20 years from the first consultation, have been selected for the study.

Of these, 700 were given the fertility drugs gonadotrophins which stimulate the ovaries. Just under a third were exposed to much higher levels of the drugs than are used today. The other 2,000 had infertility problems but were not treated with drugs.

Professor Gordon McVie, director general of the Cancer Research Campaign, called

the study "one of the biggest and most detailed of its kind".

He said: "If there is a link between the treatment and the risk of ovarian cancer, or infertility and the disease, then we may be a step closer to understanding the causes of the disease. If researchers find there isn't a link, then it will reassure thousands of women."

Isabel Dos Santos Silva, from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, who specialises in cancer epidemiology and will be working on the study, said the risks of ovarian cancer from IVF drugs "need to be clarified".

Some studies already carried out, mainly in the United States and Australia, have shown a link, but not all have. In 1986, the Committee on the Safety of Medicines banned the use of one particular fertility drug on a patient for

There could be a genetic link between IVF and ovarian cancer

longer than six months because of research showing it increased the cancer risk.

But it is hard to be sure what is happening, said Dr Santos Silva. "There could be something in women that predisposes them to infertility and to ovarian cancer," she said. "It could be something genetic."

Professor Allan Maclean, of the Royal Free and University College Medical School, who is on the study with her, said their work could have far-reaching consequences.

"In recent years the number of infertility programmes have increased. If we find there's a relationship between treatments and an increased cancer risk, it will have major implications for these programmes."

But Dr Santos Silva said any risk might have to be balanced against the advantages of successful fertility treatment because pregnancy tended to protect women in the long term against ovarian cancer.

Another British nanny held in US after death of baby

David Ward

A BRITISH nanny is to stand trial in the United States accused of murdering a 13-month-old baby she cared for at her nursery in California.

Manjit Kaur Basuta, aged 43, who lived in Ascot, Berkshire, before emigrating with her family, is fighting to prove her innocence. The case bears similarities to that of Louise Woodward, the Cheshire au pair convicted last year of the manslaughter of Matthew Eappen.

Basuta's brother, who lives in West Bromwich, said his sister was incapable of hurting a child, and the family would fight to clear her name. They have raised £60,000 towards legal bills estimated

at £150,000. Basuta has been charged with murdering Oliver Smith, who died in hospital from head injuries in March.

Her housekeeper, Christina Carillo, told a grand jury she saw Basuta shake the toddler and strike his head on the floor.

Basuta pleaded not guilty when she appeared at the San Diego Superior Court, where she was released on \$1 million bail after her local Sikh community pledged their homes as surety.

She is due back in court on December 28.

Basuta moved to San Diego in 1989 with her husband, Manjit Singh, and their three children, aged 10, 16 and 20.

Hand that rocked the cradle, Q2 page 4



Defender of the faith... Bob Davey outside St Mary's at Houghton-on-the-Hill, Norfolk. Restoration work there has been recognised in the RICS award

PHOTOGRAPH: BRYN COLTON

Ruined church which was snatched from Satan shares award with Windsor Castle

Maew Kennedy
Heritage Correspondent

THE rescue of a tiny derelict church in Norfolk from the clutches of ivy and Satanists last night shared a top conservation award with the £37 million restoration of Windsor Castle.

The judges of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said they found it impossible to separate "two outstanding but very different schemes", and made them joint winners of the RICS building conservation award.

They made it clear they were as impressed by churchwarden Bob Davey as by the £70,000 work on St Mary's, Houghton-on-the-Hill, which uncovered unsuspected 11th-century wall paintings of international importance.

Mr Davey, an imposing figure with a flowing Old Testament prophet's beard, kept solitary watch over the church on the nights of Satanic sabbaths for almost two years.

The church, abandoned but never deconsecrated, was regularly found doused with pentagrams and other symbols. After Mr Davey took up the battle, the walls were splashed with human blood, and the tomb of a former rector was smashed open and bones stolen.

Mr Davey called in a neighbour with a video camera, promised that any good shots would be passed to the local press, and got on with plant-



Joint winners: Windsor Castle, where restoration cost £37 million, and St Mary's at Houghton-on-the-Hill, where the bill was a more modest £70,000.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BRYN COLTON AND BRYN COLTON

ing 3,500 daffodil bulbs. A man dressed in black visited his house after dark and warned that he would wither and die. Mr Davey patted his substantial stomach: "Looks like it, doesn't it?"

At this stage the Territorial Army offered a hit of extra manpower. At subsequent sabbaths, the tiny church, built on a Bronze Age mound and probably on a Roman temple, was ringed with large men standing shoulder to shoulder. The Sa-

tanists looked for an easier target among Norfolk's hundreds of ruined churches.

Mr Davey, aged 70, a former sewage farm supervisor, retired to Norfolk and became church warden at South Pickenham. In 1991 his wife came back from a Women's Institute ramble and said she had seen a ruined church they had never heard of.

Since then he has literally put Houghton-on-the-Hill back on the map. Nothing remains of the village that

once surrounded the church except bumps in the fields. It was in decline by the 18th century, and the last cottages were demolished in the 1920s. The roof of the church had collapsed and ivy smothered the walls.

St Mary's is now in regular use for services, and the lost village is back on Ordnance Survey maps.

The church, dated about 1050, largely built of bricks from a vanished Roman villa, had already been earmarked

by Stephen Heywood, historic buildings officer at Norfolk county council, for the Ruined Churches Scheme, funded by the council and English Heritage. The paintings were uncovered under layers of later plaster during the work, and include features which are unique in England and rare in Europe. More remain to be uncovered, and Mr Heywood is seeking £750,000 to restore them, and for a full archaeological survey.

Meanwhile, Mr Davey is tracking down the original contents of the church from a 1925 photograph. He found the bell in another church, the piscina being used as a bird bath, and the font as a hulk through in a vicar's garden; resistance was futile, and he drove them away in the back of his car.

The judges called St Mary's "a remarkable achievement for all those involved".

Mr Davey says simply: "It needed to be done."

Targets for devil worship

EAST Anglia has become a particular target for devil worshippers from all over the country.

There are believed to be more than 16,000 Satanists in Britain, coming from all walks of life.

Last week the Bishop of Lincoln warned that hundreds of derelict churches were at risk from Satanists and Pagans.

disrepair so they have become targets for devil worshippers from all over the country.

There are believed to be more than 16,000 Satanists in Britain, coming from all walks of life.

Last week the Bishop of Lincoln warned that hundreds of derelict churches were at risk from Satanists and Pagans.

At the church in Houghton-on-the-Hill a pentagon, a satanic sign, was painted on the floor and upside-down crosses placed next to it, according to satanic legend anybody standing in the pentagon is under the control of the devil. The name Astorath, a satanic goddess, had been daubed on the wall and a fire lit in the kneave.

On another occasion the grave of a former rector of the church, the Rev Robert Say who died in 1764, was robbed. Using a metal spike the satanists smashed the wood of the coffin and removed the skull, which was used as a cup, and the longbones, which were used to decorate a satanic altar.

There is a satanic festival

about every six weeks, including the summer solstice, longest day, and halloween.

Before last year's summer solstice at least 14 cats were reported as missing around Tunbridge Wells in Kent. When new members are recruited they are often made to carry out atrocities or sacrifice animals.

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DELL

Continental consumers 'not ready to trust a product they suspect is riddled with human BSE'

Fear factor lingers as beef ban ends

Rory Carroll

SALVATION is likely to elude Britain's beef farmers, despite their jubilation at yesterday's breakthrough in Brussels which lifted an export ban but left huge obstacles to the industry's recovery.

Experts said unforgiving consumers, competitors whispering campaigns and the iron laws of trade would prevent a speedy return to profit for farmers after an episode estimated to have cost European taxpayers £4 billion.

The government-sponsored marketing drive, titled British Beef Returns, will founder once it goes into the real world beyond the glass towers of the European Commission, predicted BEUC, the European consumers' federation.

It said most Continental consumers were not ready to trust a product they suspected was riddled with the human form of BSE.

A recent federation survey of consumer groups in 15 countries found almost unanimous hostility to the ban's lifting, said Joanna Dober, its head of communications.

"There is a pretty strong anti-British sentiment. At every level of society there is a deep-rooted lack of confidence. The belief is that BSE is very prevalent in the UK. There is also a general lack of confidence in the inspection and surveillance measures operating there."

"I don't really see how any marketing campaign can get through the anti-British beef feeling."

Continental farmers, desperate to protect their share of a flooded market, are likely to fuel suspicion by telling

Around Europe

FRANCE

How much beef do they consume? 1,562,000 tonnes a year, about 27kg per head. Where does it come from? Imports were worth more than £550 million last year, representing 20 per cent of butchers' needs. The rest is reared in France. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to France sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

ITALY

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to Italy sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

GERMANY

How much do they consume? About 1,208,000 tonnes a year, about 14kg per head. Where does it come from? More than 4 million beef cattle are slaughtered annually. Most comes from German farms.

THE NETHERLANDS

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to the Netherlands sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

SPAIN

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to Spain sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

SWITZERLAND

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to Switzerland sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

UNITED KINGDOM

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to the UK sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

How much do they consume? About 1,356,000 tonnes, or 24kg of beef per head. How much came from Britain before the ban? In 1995, Britain was the main exporter to the EC sending 79,700 tonnes, worth £179 million.

culture commissioner, said nationalism was another obstacle. "It is clear it is not only a scientific problem. It is a psychological problem and a political problem."

Consumers were more willing to forgive domestic rather than foreign producers after food scares, said Ms Dober.

Nationalist appeals to shoppers were more successful when foreign countries urged boycotts of imports, she said.

British farmers, backed by the Meat and Livestock Commission, have run a high profile campaign against supermarkets who stock foreign meat.

France, whose purchase of £179 million of British beef in 1995 made it the largest export market, retained a psychological brake, said Ollivier.

Its official French meat organisation.

"If the English don't die from eating beef in the next

three years, then sales over here will begin to recover."

German consumers were expected to be the most hostile, and Dutch the most forgiving.

South American producers, who mostly filled the gap after Britain's withdrawal, are expected to put up a fierce fight to hold market share.

One Northern Ireland meat exporter said a whispering campaign had already started, claiming Brussels had lifted the ban solely for political reasons.

Nick Brown, the agriculture minister, who complained that residual concerns were unfair, had seen nothing yet, said the exporter.

The final straw for many farmers was the strong pound, which crippled exports with higher prices.

"That's the killer. Even if Europeans think it's safe, they're not going to pay more for our beef," said Mr Moore.

'I am a fighter and am determined to keep going. My wife is also in that mould. If she wasn't we would have had to throw the towel in'

Geoffrey Gibbs

THE lifting of the beef export ban was greeted with only muted cheers in Devon's Teign valley where Ron Barter and his family have struggled to make ends meet since the BSE crisis first rocked the industry.

Although the EU decision is expected to give British farming a much needed confidence boost Mr Barter said he could see little in the way of immediate improvement for the industry. He feared that exporters still faced a lengthy fight to overcome the BSE stigma and recover markets.

For some the decision had come too late but he was determined to battle on despite losing around £25,000 in turnover since the mar-

ket collapsed in 1996. With his wife Beverley, Mr Barter runs 250 head of Limousin cross and Charolais cross beef cattle on Lowley farm, a 220-acre hillside farm near Dunsford in the Teign valley.

Live weight prices for Lowley's cattle are now as low as 70p per kilo — barely half the figure before the crisis.

Hill by the slump in beef prices Mr Barter has been forced to take on a 40-hour week engineering job in Bristol on top of his farm work to keep the business going.

The crisis, he acknowledges, has had a high financial and domestic cost. Holidays have gone by the board, he has had to spend time away from his two children and, with the farm's overdraft stretched to its limit, jobs such as

fencing and repairs to out-buildings are having to be deferred.

"Without the other work we would be in a position in which we would have to sell a large part of the farm," he said yesterday.

"I suppose if I was a realistic accountant I would have turned it in some time ago. But I am a fighter and am determined to keep going and I'm lucky that my wife is also in that mould. If she wasn't we would have had to throw the towel in."

"I'm delighted the ban has been lifted, it should give an injection of confidence in the industry. But I can't see that it is going to do a lot of good in the near future because exports don't start until next year."

"If you look at Northern Ireland the lifting of the ban there has not meant a lot of meat moving from that country. A lot of markets have been taken by other producers and need to be restored. That is not going to be easy because in a lot of those markets there is a stigma attached to us because of BSE."

Mr Barter believed it would be several years before cattle from Lowley would be exported.

Despite scrupulously avoiding animal protein or bone-meal feeds the farm has suffered four cases of BSE from heifers brought in for breeding.



Ron Barter, counting the cost: 'Without other work we would have to sell a large part of the farm' PHOTOGRAPH: MARC HILL

Timetable of a crisis

November 1986: First formal diagnosis of BSE.

1988-1990: Controls imposed on animal feedstuffs.

November 1989: Cattle offtal banned from human food chain.

January 1990: First case of BSE outside Britain, in Oman.

March 20, 1996: Government admits probable link between BSE and human condition new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

March 27, 1996: EU bans British exports.

March 29, 1996: Ban on meat from cattle over 30 months old entering human food chain.

June 1996: Florence agreement on framework for lifting ban agreed by EU. Includes programmes that have seen the slaughter of more than 4 million cattle.

December 1997: Government bans beef on the bone.

March 16, 1998: EU agriculture council allows partial resumption of beef exports from Northern Ireland.

June 1, 1998: Exports start from Northern Ireland.

November 23, 1998: EU agriculture council votes to lift export ban.

December 1998-February 1999: European Commission checks necessary controls are in place.

March 1999: Exports resume?

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Currie plays Tory record over 'classic case for compensation'

James Meek

THE Government should pay compensation to victims of human BSE because former Tory ministers failed to take adequate steps to stop the disease crossing over from cattle, Edwina Currie told the BSE inquiry yesterday.

The former junior health minister said: "I feel more people became ill, more people became infected and more people died because of inadequate actions by government ministers over a long period of time."

"To me this is a classic case for compensation... I would very much like to see that recognised as a reflection of the responsibility that is carried by ministers."

As she left the inquiry, she said people were sick and should not have to go through the courts.

Thirty people are thought to have died from eating infected beef, although the link between BSE and the human condition — new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease — has yet to be proved.

Mrs Currie, the first former Conservative minister to give evidence to the inquiry, made her plea for compensation at the end of a near two-hour session during which she followed up attacks she has already made on Ministry of Agriculture "incompetence"

on food safety in written evidence.

"The east of mind at the Ministry of Agriculture was really quite hostile to a lot of what the Department of Health was doing [on food safety]. I think they thought we were trying to raise our own profile by so doing."

Department of Health officials had experienced frustrations in trying to set up meetings with the agriculture department. "We would encounter obstructions and they would brief against us."

Mrs Currie attacked the lack of urgency in trying to devise a test for BSE in cattle before they displayed the clas-

sic "mad cow" signs. There is still no government-approved test, although one on carcasses is used commercially in Ireland and hopes of developing a test for live cattle through abnormalities in the heart rate have been raised in recent weeks.

The cost of BSE to the British and European Union taxpayer, including compensation to farmers, is likely to top £4 billion by early next century. The Treasury has said that liability for human victims of the disease is a matter for the courts.

The inquiry itself will not be making decisions on compensation, although it says its outcome could be relevant to claims in the courts.



Edwina Currie: 'People died because of inadequate actions by government ministers'

'More people became ill, more people became infected and more people died because of inadequate actions by ministers over a long period'

Edwina Currie



'The real dividing line in Russia today is not between communists and democrats, but between honest and dishonest people,' said Alexander Minkin.

James Meek investigates a sinister political post-Soviet murder

G2 cover story

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Rattling good record set by young players

David Ward hears biggest orchestra

A FIVE-week-old baby with a rattle joined Sir Simon Rattle yesterday in breaking the record for the world's biggest symphony orchestra.

Liam Taylor sat in the corner section between his parents, Helen and Kevin of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and improvised as the orchestra of 3,503 young players gave two performances of Sir Malcolm Arnold's Little Suite No 2.

The record, set at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham, was at once confirmed by officials from the Guinness Book of Records, which was a relief to Sir Simon, whose previous attempt on it in 1996 failed when a specially commissioned piece proved to be 27 seconds short of the required five minutes. The previous record had been set by an orchestra of 2,212 gathered by the Kent County Music Service.

Yesterday's gathering would have been even bigger (up to 1,600 strings, 1,300 woodwinds, 800 brass, 200 percussionists) but for an accident on the M6 that prevented coachloads of children from arriving on time.

"This was a most extraordinary experience," said an overjoyed Sir Simon, who bowed out as chief conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra this year. "It was like a huge tidal wave of sound. Everyone played to an incredible standard."

"We are shouting from the roof-tops and showing what a difference music can make to all these kids." The event was staged by the charity Music for Youth and is expected to raise £30,000 for the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity. Sir Simon's father, Dennis, died two years ago in a Marie Curie hospice.



Sir Simon Rattle conducting the 3,503-piece orchestra, made up largely of school-children, as it earns its place in the Guinness Book of Records. PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES JONES

£3m claim over penis operation

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

A FORMER airline pilot left with a mutilated penis and a devastated life after an operation to "uncircumcise" him went disastrously wrong, launched a £3 million High Court damages claim yesterday against the surgeon who performed the operation.

James Williams's penis turned gangrenous after he was discharged from hospital and surgeons had to perform an emergency operation to remove "dead and dying" bits, his counsel, Nicholas Levisseur, told the High Court in London.

Mr Levisseur told Judge Anthony Kenny that some of the photographs taken after the operation in December 1994 were "horrific". Some experts had used the term "gross genital mutilation" to describe the after-effects.

Mr Williams, aged 42, never flew again and his life fell apart, said his counsel. "There is general agreement that his life has been destroyed. He is a man in effect of no fixed abode, staying with those friends and family who are able to bear his company."

Mr Levisseur said Mr Williams's flying licence had been suspended by the Civil Aviation Authority because of his mental and physical condition, his wife had divorced him and he had not seen his three children for a long time.

Mr Levisseur said John Pryor, the surgeon who per-



'This is a case which exposes the plaintiff (left) to an examination which hasn't happened to more than a handful of people. We all feel for him'

formed the operation at the private Lister hospital in south-west London, was an eminent consultant urologist — a specialist in male sexual organs and function. Mr Pryor denies negligence or breach of contract in carrying out the operation.

Mr Williams, who had been circumcised as a baby, consulted him privately about tightness and discomfort he experienced on erection. Mr Pryor performed an operation to uncircumcise him by grafting skin from his scrotum around his penis to form in effect a new foreskin.

Considerable problems developed and he had a second operation, after which he was discharged on Christmas Eve, 1994.

On a train to Exeter, it became apparent that he should

not have been discharged and a guard arranged for an ambulance to take him from the train to hospital at Barnstaple.

Doctors who saw him there believed he was "in grave danger of losing his penis" and transferred him by ambulance to a hospital at Plymouth, Mr Levisseur said.

Surgeons there contacted Mr Pryor early on Christmas morning and then operated to save Mr Williams's penis.

Papers filed in the case by Mr Williams's lawyers say his penis will never be of normal appearance or have normal sensations. He is said to be suffering from severe depressive illness and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Mr Levisseur said Mr Williams's case was that Mr Pryor used an operative tech-

nique that was "doomed to failure". This was not a case of "vanity engineering" such as a cosmetic operation to change the shape of a woman's breasts or buttocks. Mr Williams had a "small but real problem."

In addition, Mr Pryor had failed to warn of the real risk associated with the procedure, and had varied the technique, which he had written up in the British Journal of Urology in an article which Mr Williams had seen.

In the operating theatre further things went wrong, but Mr Pryor did not recognise this early enough or re-operate soon enough, Mr Levisseur said.

He administered Voltarol, a drug which should not have been given, and the antibiotic cover was inadequate. Finally, Mr Williams was sent home from hospital "when it ought to have been super-abundantly obvious to anyone that he was not fit to be discharged."

Mr Williams reluctantly consented to the disclosure of court papers on his divorce to Mr Pryor's lawyers yesterday. Brian Langstaff, QC, for Mr Pryor, said the papers were relevant to the reasons why Mr Williams sought the treatment and to the damages claimed. Mr Levisseur said: "We no longer persist in laying Mr Williams's divorce at the door of Mr Pryor."

Judge Kenny said: "This is a case which exposes the plaintiff to an examination which hasn't happened to more than a handful of people in history. We all feel for the plaintiff."

The case continues.

Lawyer found 'living under alias'

Sarah Hall

A SOLICITOR who disappeared from his Scottish practice a year ago has been discovered at the other end of the Britain, having been living semi-rough, under an alias, as a casual flower and vegetable picker.

Alastair Liddle, aged 41, who vanished on December 10 last year after discrepancies had been found in his book-keeping, has been working "cash in hand" picking daffodils and lifting bulbs on the

Land's End penitentiary in Cornwall.

As Robert Fox, the lawyer has lost four stone in weight toiling in fields around Penzance and squatting with acquaintances 730 miles from his home in Forres, Moray.

He had been summoned by the Law Society of Scotland to explain the discrepancies and why clients' funds were unaccounted for, but after supposedly catching a train to Edinburgh he never arrived.

On Saturday Devon and Cornwall police, investigating the murder of Lyn Bryant in

Ruan High Lanes five weeks ago, interviewed Mr Liddle along with other casual horticultural workers. He was identified at Elgin police station, Grampian, on Sunday and released into the care of his brother.

Police said the lawyer had not been charged with anything. But a report of the Law Society's findings has been submitted to the Crown Office.

This year police said they were concerned for his safety after it emerged that he had meetings with a drug dealer who hanged himself five

weeks before he disappeared. Tennyson Payne, aged 39, had allegedly conned a business consortium into handing him £50,000 in cash. Mr Liddle was the consortium's solicitor and is not believed to have received this money.

He has not contacted his wife, Anne Marie, aged 42, since being found but a friend in Forres, who has seen him and who refused to be identified last night, said: "There was no question of him being unstable. It was just a case of everything in Forres getting too much for him."

Hell's Angel gets 15 years for 'execution'

WHI Woodward

A HELL'S Angel who helped to mastermind a brutal attack on a rival biker gang in which two men died and a third was injured was jailed for 15 years at the Old Bailey yesterday.

Forty Hell's Angels, wearing headsets and microphones to help identify their targets and armed with axes, knives, hammers, coshes and baseball bats, launched a "brutal, planned and premeditated attack" on members of the Outcasts group in a struggle to become the pre-eminent bikers gang in Britain, the court heard.

Ronald Wait, vice-president of the Essex Chapter, known as the Hatchet Crew, was convicted of conspiracy to cause grievous bodily harm. The prosecution did not proceed with a charge of murdering Outcast member Malcolm St. Clair, after the jury failed to agree during nearly four days of deliberations.

Mr St. Clair, aged 35, and another Outcast, David Armstrong, aged 33, a father of one, died after Hell's Angels infiltrated a Rockers Reunion concert at BAC, south London, last January. Mr Armstrong, known as Flipper as he only had one leg, was parking his bike when he was beaten and stabbed to death. He was stabbed four times in his abdomen, and left leg.

The court heard Mr St. Clair was attacked in a nearby street by two Hell's Angels, one wielding an axe and another with a knife. The prosecution alleged that Wait had the axe. Mr St. Clair was stabbed eight times in his chest, abdomen, back and right hand.

A third victim, David Trearne, refused to make a statement despite being severely wounded. Many wit-

nesses were too scared to come forward. Some were threatened, but gave evidence. Judge Geoffrey Grigson, in a rare order, authorised a payment from public funds of £250 to one witness, Ramak Fazel, a photographer.

The judge told Wait, a father-of-two from Dagenham, Essex, the murdered men were "executed in a manner that was as ruthless as it was arrogant".

Eighteen stone Wait, known as Gut, had been a member of the Hell's Angels for 22 years. He told the jury he had such poor health he would not have been able to take part in any attack. He said he had been at a Hell's Angel clubhouse in Reading, miles away from the violence.

The amiable relationship between the Hell's Angels and Outcasts deteriorated a year before the murders when the United States Hell's Angels told the 240-strong British gang to quash other motorcycle gangs or lose their charter.

Senior Outcasts were recruited into the British Hell's Angels after the order. Police believe the battles between the warring biker factions could escalate after the verdict. But they say they now have a large amount of intelligence on the Hell's Angels. The files on the murders are still open.

Officers visited a number of Hell's Angels chapter houses. Many were fortified, with grilles, CCTV and alarms, and had bars and gyms. Police gained large amounts of intelligence on the international network and found a large number of weapons, drugs and cash.

Mr Armstrong's father, Bob, said he and his wife felt no anger and appealed against "retribution" on his behalf. "He was just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Peep at the past excites cavers

Geoffrey Gibbs

SUBTERRANEAN exploration has come a long way since the Morgan brothers embarked in a coracle to enter the Dan-yr-Ogof show caves in south Wales.

The cave system at Abercraze, near Swansea is regarded by experts as one of the largest and finest in the British Isles. But large parts remain undiscovered and out of the cavers' reach. Now, geologists and miners using hi-tech drilling equipment have achieved a breakthrough that could lead to chambers hidden for hundreds of millions of years being opened for exploration.

"It is exciting because it sheds more light on the knowledge we have of the caves. But until the cavities are accessed we don't know what extent there is," a leading caver and cave diver, Martyn Farr, said last night. "Everything about these particular caves is immensely exciting because of their sheer scale. It is a very complex system to be able to probe but there is a lot of it there."

The caves were first explored in 1912 by the Morgan brothers because of cu-



Ashford Price: This place is like a huge chunk of cheese filled with holes. We think there will be some spectacular rock formations. PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ELLIARD

Abuse risk higher during pregnancy

Sarah Boseley
Health Correspondent

WOMEN are more likely when they are pregnant to suffer domestic violence at the hands of their partner or to commit suicide, a new report into maternal deaths has warned.

Baroness Hayman, junior health minister, yesterday called on GPs, midwives and other health professionals to

be aware of the signs that a woman is being battered or is falling into a potentially suicidal depression.

At the Government's request, the latest Confidential Enquiry into Maternal Deaths, which reports every three years, looked at public health matters that endanger women's lives in pregnancy as well as the medical problems that arise.

It found that six women in the past three years died as a

result of domestic violence and thousands more were injured. Studies have shown that around a third of domestic violence starts in pregnancy.

The report recommended that ante-natal clinics have procedures for identifying women who may become depressed. Details of any psychiatric disorder, substance abuse or previous self-harm should be taken when a woman is booked in.

"We know now of nine deaths attributable to psychiatric causes, including postnatal depression," said Lady Hayman. "Identifying women at risk from depression, alcohol and drugs should become routine practice."

The inquiry looked at 376 deaths, of which 268 were considered to be directly or indirectly related to medical problems in the pregnancy or within six weeks of giving birth.

Hospital inquiry into death of boy who was sent home

Vikram Dodd

A HOSPITAL was yesterday investigating why a schoolboy died days after being sent home. Usman Ali, aged five, was taken to Sheffield children's hospital after hanging his head at a council-run special school last Wednesday.

Doctors who saw him on Thursday sent him home after taking an x-ray. But

bours later his worried parents, Shokat and Safwan Ali, took him back to the hospital where he underwent an emergency operation.

On Sunday, Mr and Mrs Ali, from Fir Vale, Sheffield, gave permission for his life support machine to be switched off.

Hospital chief nurse Hussein Khalil said: "A formal review will be conducted into this case, examining the treatment he received."

Martin Kettle in Washington on the push for unilateral action as missile maintenance costs soar

Pentagon set to cut nuclear arsenal

THE Pentagon is planning big unilateral reductions in the United States' nuclear weapons arsenal, according to reports in Washington which military chiefs conspicuously failed to deny yesterday.

If implemented by the Clinton administration and approved by Congress, the cuts would take US stockpiles below the 6,000 warheads level allowed by the Start 1 arms limitation treaty, and would save the Pentagon hundreds of millions of dollars.

Washington's readiness to press ahead with a free round of cuts came as the defence secretary, William Co-

hen, roundly attacked the German government's proposals for Nato to adopt a "no first use" nuclear weapons policy.

"It is an integral part of our strategic concept and we think it should remain exactly as it is," Mr Cohen said. "There is good rationale for keeping it as it is."

The German-US argument is likely to intensify in the build-up to Nato's 50th anniversary summit in Washington in April, and will inevitably put other European Nato powers — including Britain — on the spot. But the Pentagon's determination to stamp on any rethink of the doctrine coexists with its evident

readiness to cut US stockpiles, another issue with implications for nuclear powers such as Britain.

For several weeks Clinton

'Nato's first-use weapons policy should remain exactly as it is'

administration and Pentagon officials have been privately discussing ways in which nuclear weapons levels can be reduced below Start 1 levels without waiting for Russia to

ratify the Start 2 treaty. This pact demands a reduction of nuclear warheads to 3,000-3,500 and was signed in 1993, but it has been before the Russian parliament ever since.

The Pentagon said yesterday that no report on fresh arms reduction plans had been circulated to Mr Cohen, but this limited denial underlines the likelihood that the issue is about to return to centre stage, both in domestic politics and internationally.

The principal pressure on the Pentagon is financial. Russia's delay in signing Start 2, and a US law prohibiting unilateral cuts below Start 1 levels, mean the defence department is having to

spend huge and growing sums maintaining — and even rebuilding — weapons it has committed itself to scrapping.

According to one report, the costs of delay will mount steeply. In two years the Pentagon has spent \$55 million (\$57 million) it would have saved had Start 2 taken effect. The US navy alone faces spending more than \$5 billion between now and 2003 to refuel nuclear reactors and install new missiles on four Trident submarines that should otherwise have been dismantled.

Officially, the administration line remains that no discussions involving Mr Cohen or President Bill Clinton are

expected before the Russian parliament completes its latest discussions of Start 2. A vote in the lower house could come next month.

'We have to streamline. We're driven by our own imperatives'

But with Mr Clinton's presentation of the federal budget for 2000 to the newly elected Congress just weeks away, and with the annual State of the Union speech due

on January 20, the pressure on the administration to find extra savings is intensifying.

Administration officials believe that the budget pressures are even more daunting in Moscow, and that they open up the possibility that Russia's economic crisis will finally force the parliament to ratify Start 2. Regardless of events in Moscow, there are increasing signs that the Clinton administration is prepared to press on alone.

"You will inevitably see us take some unilateral actions that we have to take to modernise our forces and maybe streamline our forces," the head of US strategic command, Admiral Richard Miles, told

the New York Times yesterday. He added: "We're driven by our own imperatives."

Aside from the budget squeeze, political pressures for a US initiative are also increasing. In a speech last week a Democratic senator, Bob Kerry, called on the administration to make unilateral nuclear cuts to reassure Russia and re-energise the reduction process.

Under Start 1 the US has reduced its strategic nuclear warheads from 10,000 to about 7,000. Last year Mr Clinton and Russia's President Yeltsin agreed that once Start 2 was approved they would begin talks on reductions to 2,000-2,500 warheads each.

Heavy hand on hemp as Greece hits drug trade

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE has marked Europe's much-vaunted drug prevention week by cracking down on shops specialising in hemp products — the virtually drug-free cousin of cannabis.

Six of Greece's 15 self-styled *Kannabishops* have been shut down in a move that could soon bring the country before the European Court.

Never mind that Herodotus, the Greek historian of the 5th century BC, praised hemp, a crop not only used as bedding in the Buckingham Palace stables, but now widely subsidised by the European Union.

Or that each of the 500 items sold by the chain carried the very visible warning: "Don't try to smoke this product. If you do, you will get nothing but an awful headache. It does not contain THC (the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana)."

Yiannis Ganiatsas, who imports merchandise for *Kannabishops*, lamented: "In some cases the police have gone in and confiscated everything — shirts, jewellery, postcards, the lot. I told them the only thing hemp products turn people on to is the environ-

ment, and that we would take the case to the European Court to prove that EU laws on the free movement of goods were being violated. They seemed to think you could get high wearing a hemp shirt."

The clamp, imposed by Athens' new public order minister, is in tune with existing strict drugs laws in the country, which has Europe's fastest-growing number of heroin addicts.

But it runs counter to recent attempts by the Socialist government to introduce a softer approach to drug use, now widely regarded as Greece's most serious social problem.

Last year's stiff prison sentences for possessing recreational drugs such as marijuana were revoked, although amateurs caught red-handed are still required to have long periods of counselling. The state has also funded the opening of 36 therapeutic and drug prevention centres in less than a year.

The scale of the problem is such that heroin deaths have risen 200-fold in two years. George Papandreu, European affairs minister, has been hard on drugs advocates, said: "There's now a real narcotics problem in Greece. Addressing it by closing shops that sell abso-



A Kannabishop shopkeeper in Athens, Yuli Kalofolia, displays some of the hemp products she is no longer allowed to sell

PHOTOGRAPH: LEFTIS PITARAKIS

lutely harmless hemp materials is both crazy and contradictory when we've got an entire mafia out there selling hard drugs.

"The police always go for the easiest prey to make it look as if they're on the job. Repressive measures never work."

But in a country where an estimated 100,000 people, 1 per cent of the population, are hard-core addicts, such liberal beliefs are hard to swallow. In spite of the stance of well-respected politicians like Mr Papandreu, Greece is finding it increasingly diffi-

cult to shake off its reputation as one of the world's most repressive states when it comes to drugs.

Unlike its EU partners, Greece has always adopted tough United States policies, with legislation still prohibiting doctors from treating addicts, the distinction between soft and hard drugs, addicts and non-addict users is blurred.

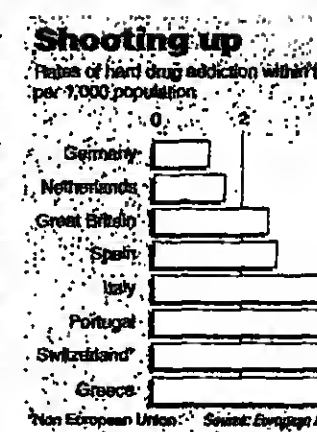
"The *Kannabishops* were targeted because they sold products that carried the cannabis leaf logo," said a police chief at Athens' newly expanded Anti-Drugs Squad. "This is a

clear-cut promotion of cannabis which goes against the 1988 United Nations charter on drugs and ultimately encourages young people to experiment with them. This is our way of fighting a modern-day scourge."

As the 15-member EU's only Balkan country, Greece has been flooded with drugs brought in from Albania, its chaotic northern neighbour, since the collapse of communism. Last month police intercepted a train-load of mules carrying 200 tons of hashish across the mountainous

border. So bad is the problem that vast quantities of heroin, shipped in from Turkey, are believed to be sneaked into Greece daily from Albania.

"Around 95 per cent of the hashish and 75 per cent of the heroin entering this country comes from Albania," said the officer whose rank forbids him to reveal his identity. "The Albanians are now the biggest drug traffickers in Europe after the Turks. What they are doing is even worse than the Internet with all the lessons it now offers in making synthetic drugs."



Doctor charged in 'insurance fraud' after stolen art turns up

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

A DOCTOR who had a fashionable practice in the opulent Los Angeles suburb of Brentwood has been charged in an alleged \$17.5 million (£10.6 million) art insurance fraud for which the underwriters were Lloyd's of London.

Two "stolen" paintings by Picasso and Monet cost Steven Cooperman a total of \$1.75 million in the late 1980s. How he insured them has exposed what art experts say is a weakness in the business of fine art insurance. But the case also features some

stereotypical southern Californian touches — a reverence for art based on its cash value, the steep fees charged by medical experts, and even a showbusiness lawyer.

In 1991 Dr Cooperman, whose eye specialist practice had made him a millionaire, loaned Picasso's *Nude Before a Mirror* and Monet's *Custome Officer's Cabin at Fourville* to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which allowed him to estimate their value at \$12.5 million. Armed with a receipt for this amount, Dr Cooperman upped his insurance policy, according to prosecutors.

A US broker issued him a policy for \$12.5 million under-

written by Lloyd's and a German company.

But a year later, while the doctor was on holiday, a house worker he employed noticed the paintings were missing. Detectives found no sign of burglary. The insurers refused to pay, saying the paintings were overvalued, but Dr Cooperman threatened to sue.

"I did not plan, stage or in any way participate in the theft and removal of the Picasso and Monet from my home," he declared in a statement. "Nervous about possible punitive damages, the insurers settled for \$17.5 million."

Despite a \$250,000 reward, the paintings' whereabouts remained unknown until a

woman in Ohio told police her lawyer boyfriend, James Little, had the art works. They were found in a storage locker last year and Mr Little agreed to testify in exchange for immunity.

He claimed that he had got them from his partner, James Tierney, who represented Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys and Geffen Records.

Mr Tierney also acted for Dr Cooperman but has declined to discuss the paintings. "He is co-operating fully," his lawyer said.

The doctor, due to appear in court in Los Angeles soon, faces up to 120 years' imprisonment for fraud, conspiracy and money laundering.

News in brief

Mob stones US tour bus

A BUS carrying United States tourists in the Iranian capital Tehran had its windows shattered when a group of protesters shouting anti-American slogans pelted it with stones and hammered it with iron rods.

The attack is believed to have been triggered by reports in headline newspapers accusing the visiting American group of being CIA officers posing as tourists.

It happened as the group arrived at the Esteghal Hotel in northern Tehran where they were staying. The bus was stopped by a group of men who broke all its windows before the driver managed to speed away and call the police.

A radical Muslim group

Willey lawyer to testify

A LAWYER for the former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey yesterday became the second witness to give evidence to the House of Representatives impeachment inquiry into President Bill Clinton, writes Martin Kettle in Washington.

Daniel Gecker was subpoenaed to testify behind closed doors to the House Judiciary committee after last week's appearance of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

Jakarta riot toll rises

HUNDREDS of Indonesian soldiers patrolled the streets of Jakarta yesterday as the death toll from weekend religious riots rose to at least 13, writes John Aglionby in Jakarta.

A Red Cross official said seven people died when they hid in a Christian-run entertainment centre, which was attacked by Muslims who thought it was a gambling den.

The riots began amid rumours that gambling Christians from eastern Ambon island had burnt three mosques.

Rail strikes against EU policy bring chaos

Paul Webster in Paris

RAIL traffic ground to a halt across the Continent yesterday as rail workers began strikes against European Union plans to open the freight market to competition.

Strikes stranded passengers and goods in Belgium and severely disrupted rail traffic in France, Greece and Luxembourg.

In Britain, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands rail workers expressed opposition to the EU plans, but through leaflets, news conferences and letters to transport ministers rather than industrial action, unions said.

The strike action threatened to be most serious in France, where railway workers called

for an indefinite strike to start next weekend. A one-day stoppage severely affected French traffic yesterday.

Exceptions included the Eurostar shuttle between London and Paris, which was running normally. Eurostar trains to Brussels were severely disrupted.

The strike call in France added to growing dissension among the leftwing coalition government and its supporters.

The Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, whose popularity has slid in polls for the first time since his appointment 17 months ago, will make a radio appeal today for government partners to stop quarrelling.

Mr Jospin also faces allegations that his key policies, including those on welfare reform, immigration and pri-

vatization, are derived from those of Alain Juppé.

Mr Juppé, the former Gaullist prime minister, led the right to defeat in June 1997. Communists and Greens in the coalition have created a similarly hostile to Mr Jospin in the run-up to European elections next June.

They have been joined by the Socialist Party leftwing, a quarter of the executive. Marie-Noëlle Lienemann accused Mr Jospin at the weekend of restricting party democracy, while another leftwinger, Julian Dray, said he had embarked on a programme of "creeping privatization" — a reference to sell-offs in telecommunications, banks and air transport.

Leftwing and independent transport movements which paralysed France in 1986,

have strong links with the Communists and Greens.

Six French rail unions joined yesterday's action over EU deregulation plans and have called out workers for at least 48 hours from Friday to back shorter hours and better conditions in France. Protests are planned by hospital, post office, telecommunications and job centre workers.

EU unions see deregulation plans drawn up by the European transport commissioner, Neil Kinnock, as another form of privatisation.

Mr Kinnock told transport ministers yesterday that only 14 per cent of European freight was carried by rail because of competition from road hauliers, and that there might be no rail traffic at all by 2012 unless restrictions on state rail operators were removed.



A lone commuter waits for a train at Bordeaux station yesterday. French railways called a strike to support Europe-wide protests against deregulation

Italian priest announces he has helped set up abortions

John Hooper in Rome

AN ITALIAN priest has shocked Roman Catholic clergymen by declaring that he has helped to arrange abortions.

Father Andrea Gallo, aged 70, said that on four occasions he had directed young Albanian prostitutes in Genoa to a doctor to have their pregnancies terminated. He said he hoped his admission would force people "to face up to these things".

But a fellow priest, Father Oreste Benzi, who also has experience in the pastoral care of prostitutes, said: "He has made himself an accomplice to the killing of children."

Fr Gallo said the girls he had helped were "all under-age, some little more than children; hungry, desperate

and without papers". He said he was "unambiguously opposed to abortion" but had opted for the "lesser evil" in extreme situations.

"When one of these Albanian girls comes to me and says, 'Help me. Otherwise, my pimp will kick me in the belly till I abort', what am I meant to do?" Fr Gallo asked.

There are estimated to be more than 7,000 Albanian prostitutes in Italy. Most work in conditions of effective slavery, some having been kidnapped in Albania.

This is not the first time Fr Gallo has been at the centre of controversy. Best known for his work among drug addicts in Genoa, he caused a sensation four years ago by sanctioning the distribution of condoms to prostitutes in the rundown area where he works.



Boris Yeltsin photographed yesterday at the Central Clinic Hospital in Moscow where he met China's President Jiang Zemin.

Sick Yeltsin holds court

James Meek in Moscow

DOURTS about whether Boris Yeltsin will be able to cling to office until his scheduled retirement in 2000 intensified yesterday as it was revealed that the sick Russian president had been admitted to hospital with pneumonia.

Fighting to show he could still be head of state, Mr Yeltsin, aged 67, refused to cancel a scheduled meeting with the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, and invited him into his room in Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, where he was quietly admitted on Sunday.

Russian television showed almost surreal silent footage of the leader of the world's largest country and the leader of the world's most populous sitting opposite each other in the clinic.

Mr Yeltsin was seen making his characteristic extravagant arm gestures and his lips were moving, but it was impossible to tell what he was saying.

This show of life may not save him from the ignominy of forced retirement if sufficient political pressure builds up to persuade his immediate circle, in particular his family, to tell him he must step down for health reasons.

Among the chorus of politicians saying early elections were inevitable yesterday, the voice of Alexander Shokhin sounded an especially uncomfortable note for Mr Yeltsin. Mr Shokhin, leader of a cent-right party which normally restrains from open attacks on the president, was blunt.

"The series of illnesses suffered by the president bear witness to his inability to carry out his presidential duties, fully," Mr Shokhin said.

Grigory Yavlinsky was still more brutal, arguing that even when Mr Yeltsin was in

On previous occasions Mr Yeltsin's hospitalisation has caused world stock markets to tremble. But yesterday Moscow's stock market soared.

relatively good health, he failed to have the faintest idea of what was wrong with Russia and what should be done about it.

"We wish the president a speedy recovery, but it won't change the situation," he said. "Whether the president is ill or well, the effect is the

same." Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov also wished Mr Yeltsin good health, but went on: "His disease is incurable. He's an irresponsible man and is not in a fit state to rule the country. Everyone knows that."

Mr Yeltsin's press spokesman, Dmitri Yakushev, promised that the public would be kept fully informed of the state of the president's health, but denied there was any need for early elections.

Yet other voices from within the presidential administration were undermining him. One official, Natalya Savolova, confirmed that the idea of reviving the dormant post of vice-president was being actively considered in the Kremlin.

The most likely vice-president would be prime minister Yevgeny Primakov. Constitutionally, he is already Mr Yeltsin's stand-in, and in reality, has in many respects become Russia's leader already. Introducing a vice-presidency could mean that he would serve out the whole of the retiring president's remaining term.

Mr Yeltsin has been plagued by an unknown complex of illnesses since having quintuple heart bypass surgery in 1996.

There has been wide speculation that his liver has been damaged, possibly by heavy drinking, and the effect of this can be to lower the quality of the blood, making heart bypass surgery less successful.

Pneumonia, liver disease and a troubled heart can feed off each other to worsen a patient's condition and cause brain damage, said Dr Gennady Vlkhyev, a Moscow heart specialist. "Older patients can have special problems like liver problems, diseases of the blood vessels and diseases of the heart muscles."

"For such patients pneumonia as such can lead to serious consequences. The oxygen supply to the blood is reduced due to pneumonia, and this creates a vicious circle."

In the past, Mr Yeltsin's hospitalisation caused world stock markets to tremble. Since the collapse of the Russian financial system in August and the incremental replacement of the president by Mr Primakov, the situation has changed. Yesterday Moscow's stock market soared.

Elizabeth Love in Santiago
AS THE Law Lords prepare to deliver their verdict in London tomorrow on whether the former dictator Augusto Pinochet is entitled to immunity from prosecution, people in his native Chile are only starting to come to terms with the wounds his arrest has reopened from a past stained by human rights abuses.

Before the aging general's arrest on October 16, human rights issues took a back seat in the media to those of the Asian economic crisis, the budget and next year's presidential election. Now discussion centres on the fate of Gen Pinochet as more bodies of the "disappeared" are un-

earthed and identified. Frequent protests are sparking fears in the business community that Chile might be viewed as unstable.

"We had tried to sweep the issue of human rights under the rug and now we are tripping on the lump that it made," said Alejandro Gutierrez of the Commission for the Rights of Youth. "People don't seem to understand that the future cannot be tackled until we come to terms with the past."

Under Chile's past two democratic governments, the Truth and Justice Commission documented the cases of the 3,197 people who died or disappeared under Gen Pinochet's 17-year military regime. But a 1978 amnesty makes it exceedingly difficult to convict those responsible.

On Friday the Chilean supreme court rejected a gov-

ernment petition for a judge to handle more than a dozen lawsuits filed against Gen Pinochet. "The possibilities of Pinochet getting tried in Chile are nil," said Martha Lagos, a political analyst.

Since 1992 eight habeas corpus investigations into the whereabouts of the disappeared and to "reinterpret" the amnesty law have been thrown out of congress.

Should the Law Lords rule against Gen Pinochet, an extradition hearing would be held on December 2 on a Spanish warrant accusing him of involvement in the deaths of more than a dozen Spanish citizens and thousands of Chileans.

Human rights groups often describe Gen Pinochet's lack of remorse for the brutality of his regime as a stumbling block in the way of national reconciliation. The former dictator has never apologised for any of the excesses committed by his government while he was in power.

"To demand an apology from those who have yet to be tried is against essential human rights," said a supporter, the right-wing senator Francisco Prat of the National Renovation Party.

The Chilean episcopal conference has urged anyone who knows anything of the fate of the disappeared to come forward. The bishops also made a veiled invitation to Gen Pinochet to apologise.

A Christian Democratic senator, Gabriel Ascencio, responded: "The Catholic Church has always taught you must first feel sorry before you can ask for forgiveness, and I don't see any remorse anywhere."

One gesture of goodwill often requested of Gen Pinochet by politicians of both left and right is his retirement from politics altogether. After stepping down as head of the army in March, he took an unexpected life seat in the senate as stipulated by the constitution passed by his military regime.

"I think most people see Pinochet as a prostrate old man and just wish he would go away and stop bothering," said pollster Carlos Huneeus. Until that happens, Pinochet's arrest is polarizing Chile as politicians positioning themselves for presidential elections in 1999 take sides. Political parties that form part of the current governing coalition have closed ranks around the government strategy of defending the former

Trial starts of Ukraine 'animal' who killed 52

Tom Whitehouse in Moscow

THE trial of one of the worst serial killers began in Ukraine yesterday, with Anatoly Onoprienko showing no signs of remorse.

As the names of his 52 victims were read out to the court in Zhytomyr, Mr Onoprienko, aged 39, a sailor and forestier, sat stone-faced in an iron cage. "The defendant is calm. He fully admits his guilt," said his lawyer, Russian Mashkovsky.

Mr Onoprienko said in a police interview: "I look at it very simply — as an animal. I watched all this as an animal would stare at a sheep."

Mr Onoprienko shot or stabbed families, including children, before setting their homes on fire during a seven-year period starting in 1989. But it was not until 1995, after he murdered a family in a secluded village in western Ukraine, that Mr Onoprienko became the most wanted man in Ukrainian history.

As his tally increased week by week, 2,000 police and 3,000 soldiers were patrolling the region around Lvov in western Ukraine, where most of the murders were committed. Fear of murder disrupted normal life as villagers refused to go out after dark.

A tip-off led police to the flat of Mr Onoprienko's girlfriend, where he was shot and arrested after trying to shoot his way out with the same hunting rifle that was used to kill most of his victims.

Mr Onoprienko readily confessed to 40 murders he had committed between December 1995 and March 1996 and then asked for a further 12 killings in 1999, in which he was assisted by an accomplice, to be taken into consideration.

His girlfriend, relatives and friends describe him as thoughtful and quiet. The Moscow's stock market soared.

times' houses were generally given away as gifts. But his statements since his arrest have raised doubts about his sanity. "In 1985, I was forced to kill people again... Then, literally in the process of all this, I saw that it was not me," he said in a television interview.

His speech is dominated by ramblings about the CIA, Interpol and "unknown powers". He described himself as a robot, driven for years by an unknown dark force. Until the identity of this force is established he feels he should not stand trial. Police psychologists have ruled him fit to stand trial.

Despite Mr Onoprienko's confession, it has taken two years to bring him to trial because of financial problems. Only after one of the judges made a televised appeal for extra funds did the Ukrainian government allocate \$30,000 needed to bring 400 witnesses to court. Mr Onoprienko's legal right to read all the evidence against him before standing trial has meant further delay.

The trial is expected to last a year. Although Ukraine has abolished the death penalty since joining the Council of Europe, senior legal figures have suggested it be temporarily reinstated as the only appropriate punishment in this case.



Anatoly Onoprienko sits calmly inside an iron cage at his trial for killing 52 people. PHOTOGRAPH: EFREM LUKATSKY

Reopened wounds split Chile on eve of Pinochet ruling

Elizabeth Love in Santiago

AS THE Law Lords prepare to deliver their verdict in London tomorrow on whether the former dictator Augusto Pinochet is entitled to immunity from prosecution, people in his native Chile are only starting to come to terms with the wounds his arrest has reopened from a past stained by human rights abuses.

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A Chilean woman holds a picture of the deposed president Salvador Allende at a demonstration in Santiago supporting the arrest last month of General Augusto Pinochet, the dictator who ousted him in 1973. PHOTOGRAPH: DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS

nochet as a prostrate old man and just wish he would go away and stop bothering," said pollster Carlos Huneeus. Until that happens, Pinochet's arrest is polarizing Chile as politicians positioning themselves for presidential elections in 1999 take sides. Political parties that form part of the current governing coalition have closed ranks around the government strategy of defending the former

leader's immunity but not his person. Rightwing politicians who were trying to move towards the centre have found themselves pressured into joining in shrill protests against the arrest.

"In the political arena the right is the most affected because it became thoroughly 'Pinochetised' and so they are identified with the past and not the future," said Carlos Huneeus, a pollster.

Business leaders, who traditionally support Gen Pino-

chet for his role in promoting free-market reforms, also fret about the effects of the arrest. "We were already dealing with the Asian crisis and a drop in sales, and now this has thrown a shadow on everything. People see images on television of the protests and they think the whole country is like that," Mario Aguilari, vice-president of the National Chamber of Commerce, said. "Instead of talking business, all people talk about is Pinochet."

Israel tightens security against US cult

David Sharrock in Jerusalem and Chris Reed in Los Angeles

ISRAEL yesterday announced a \$7 million security plan to prevent millennium fanatics from attacking holy sites in Jerusalem, as police revealed that Christian cult members linked to a suicide pact had arrived from the United States.

Refusing to give details, the Jerusalem police commander, Yair Yitzhaki, confirmed that 10 members of "Concerned Christians, a doomsday cult based in Denver, Colorado, were in Israel."

The alert was raised after US cult watchers warned that the group might head to Israel on orders from their leader, Monte Kim Miller. Mr Miller, a former salesman for the soap company Procter & Gamble, disappeared after predicting Denver would be razed by an earthquake on October 10. Members of his sect sold their belongings in the belief that the end of the world was coming and told relatives they were going abroad with their leader.

Mr Miller first came to public notice in the mid-1980s when he preached against cults in fundamentalist churches in Denver. But later he had adopted cultist practices as he warned of an apocalypse and sent letters to the churches that had welcomed him, accusing them of "Satanic" preaching.

"The Lord's grace has been with the Church for 2,000 years but his judgments are ready to begin," he told a Denver television station two years ago. "Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Now we are to go to our deaths as well."

Mr Miller has said he will die in Jerusalem in December 1999 and be resurrected three days later.

Mr Yitzhaki declined to elaborate on the whereabouts of the cult members in Israel. "Every additional word I say could harm the very important work being done now," he told Israel radio.

"The matter of messianic activity with the approach of the year 2000 is one we have been dealing with for a very long time," he added.

Asked about suicide attempts by cult members, he

said: "We are also preparing for that possibility, which is relatively new compared with the other threats against the Temple Mount."

The Temple Mount, known to Muslims as Haram as-Sharif, or the Noble Sanctuary, is within the walled Old City of Jerusalem. Considered to be the site of the first and second Jewish temples, as well as the site of the Al Aqsa mosque — Islam's third-holiest site — it is one of the most sensitive areas in the Middle East conflict. An assault on the site would undoubtedly trigger violence and undermine the Israeli-Arab peace process.

The \$7 million will be spent upgrading security at the Temple Mount amid concerns that Jewish or Christian extremists might attack the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. Some 400 policemen and security devices such as closed circuit television cameras and sensor pads will be deployed, Israel radio said.

Some Christian cults believe the destruction of the mosques will lead to the rebuilding of the Jewish Temple, hastening the second coming of Christ.

'Officials' say atoll do nicely for just £2,000

John Gittings in Hong Kong

ENTRY to the last word in exclusivity can be yours for a few dollars, the bargain price of a passport to the Dominion of Melchizedek.

Already 200 eager would-be citizens have shelled out \$3,800 (£2,000) for their key to this haven — described as the Switzerland of the Pacific —

where they can truly get away from it all.

Particularly reality. For apart from a slice of Antarctica, the dominion consists of an atoll in the Marshall Islands and a small reef in the Cook Islands below sea level.

Now the non-existent country's senior "officials" are under arrest in the Philippines' capital Manila. They say it is all a misunderstanding. They include the domin-

ion's ministers for justice, public works and the navy.

Manila police say they were all selling passports. These 32-page documents, described by investigators as "crude" come with a map showing where the dominion is located, a sensible precaution since it is not in any atlas.

Although no one is known to have gone there, its websites attract regular visitors. The dominion's stock ex-

change offers to incorporate a company or trust for a down-

payment of \$1,000. Applicants are also invited to join the bar association and university.

One of those in custody is a barrister, Stuart Mason-Parker, once a senior Crown counsel in Hong Kong. He is alleged to have asked former colleagues if they wanted to be the dominion's chief justice or attorney-general.

Friends of Mr Mason-

Parker are relieved to hear he is alive, for they thought he had been shot dead on a beach in the Philippines.

The self-styled president of Melchizedek is said to be an Australian, John Gillespie, who is still at large. The website says the atoll was ceded by a paramount chief in the Marshalls. The reef — accessible only by "small boat or sea plane or helicopter" — was previously unclaimed.

Forsythe doesn't possess the physical flamboyance many would expect from a leading choreographer and a man whose abrasive rewrite of classical dance has caused him to be labelled the 'Antichrist' of the ballet world.
Judith Mackrell on the force behind Ballett Frankfurt

Diary

Simon Bowers

THE hunt for the scoundrel who planted a packet of frozen seafood under Rizia Rosie Boycott's bath tub earlier this month takes another twist. While police, called in at Rizia's request, have so far come up with little more than a sonnet — Fingers the Fishfinger Secretary — a key witness, meanwhile, has spoken out in the Sunday Times. Prime suspect James Hughes Onslow, despite recovering from a hernia operation, managed to pen a few, albeit confused, words from his sickbed. "She was angry and tearfully denouncing me as the villainous house-hunter who had placed decomposing fishfingers under her bath. Could this be true?" he muses, under heavy sedation. "Am I that weird?" Some flashes of memory have returned to him — he recalls visiting an elegant four-floor house in Bayswater and a dog called Bingo — but both his doctors and lawyers have advised him that further memory recovery would be unwise. Investigations continue.

WITH Westminster in a frenzy over accusations of undeclared business interests, Dr Jack Cunningham, reinvented under the mantle of Cabinet Enforcer, once again professes himself as the benchmark of parliamentary probity. "September, 1998," reads an intriguing entry of his in the members' register. "Two days fishing and hospitality as guest of Scottish Coal." This, you will be surprised to learn, is the first ministerial freebie on the register. While some may contemplate the very point of your existence, Jack, your brazen candour does you credit. Well done.

THE Diary is outraged to learn that respected elder statesman of the gossip community, Mail diarist Nigel Dempster, has been silenced recently by his own paper. Having paid £75,000 for his latest book, Dempster's *Peepshow*, the Daily Mail has mysteriously halted its serialisation, claims the Sunday Telegraph. However, the Diary has obtained a copy of the text, which now becomes our Book of the Month. We begin with the first daily routine: "My own day," he reveals, "starts around 7am when I have a quick breakfast — half a pink grapefruit and weak Earl Grey tea — reading two or three newspapers at my South Kensington home prior to taking our five Pekinese for their early morning walk in Hyde Park, following which they demand their own breakfast, usually provided by Sainsbury's or Marks and Spencer." How dare he suppress this stuff. We return, tomorrow, to the hook they tried to dump.

WE are impressed by a philosophical diatribe by the current Spectator. She recounts an appearance on Sky television's PMQs discussion programme. ("PMQs," she explains, "sounds like something that affects women around that time of the month but is actually an acronym for Prime Minister's Questions at the House of Commons.") Also offering incisive comment on Mr Tony's performance, Patsy recalls, was Hugo Young. ("Hugo," she explains, "is the Linde Evangelist of political journalism — he doesn't get out of bed for less than 10,000 words a day.") But before she can relay what issues this intriguing duo were asked to discuss, Patsy stops herself short: "...what is no issue, incidentally?" she inquires of herself. "Is the 'I' silent, leaving it something to be sneezed at?" The question, alas, is left to resonate as the epiphanic moment fades and she returns to her central theme. However, the Diary's curiosity has been aroused... What is an issue? Suggestions, as always, welcome.

GOOD luck to Dorotha Mantova Purne of California who is to join a long line of celebrities revealing their culinary secrets in a cook book this Christmas. Dot sprung to fame on the back of convictions for the serial killing by poisoning of guests at her Sacramento B&B in the 1980s.



My father drowned. The Guardian's independence was his bequest

50 years of the Scott Trust

Richard Scott



MY FATHER Ted, who had succeeded C.P. Scott as editor of the Manchester Guardian some three years earlier, drove me up to Lake Windermere in April 1932 for a short holiday following a minor heart attack he had recently suffered. While he was driving, my father talked to me seriously about the paper for the first time. I was 17.

C.P. Scott had recently died. The Inland Revenue believed that a case could be made out for subjecting to death duties C.P. Scott's share (along with his two sons) in the ownership of the paper. This was a very serious matter. Neither C.P. Scott nor his sons Ted and John had ever taken out of the paper more than their fairly modest salaries. They were not by any means rich men. And payment of such death duties by the paper itself would have had a fairly crippling effect on it.

In the end the Inland Revenue accepted that death duties were not impossible since C.P. Scott was only a minority shareholder. But my father concluded: "If something should happen to John or me, God knows what would happen to the paper." And, alas, something did indeed happen to him only a few hours later. He was drowned.

Shortly after we reached Windermere late that morning we went out in the small yacht my father had been encouraged to buy by his friend Arthur Ransome, but which he, and still less I, had no great experience at sailing. It was a typical April day on Windermere — a little sun, skidding clouds, but dry. After an hour or so I took over the tiller from my father. I recall two crows flying slowly, low, over the boat. And then there was a sudden violent gust of wind which seized the sail and

swept the boat over. I managed to scramble on to the upturned keel and my father told me to stay there while he swam towards the shore, about 100 yards away. I scoured the shoreline for a sign of people and when I looked back to where my father had been swimming there was nothing. He had gone. And so I started calling out for help.

Shortly afterwards a man appeared in a rowing boat. I pointed to where I had last seen my father and shouted: "A man has just gone down there". As starkly unemotional as that. And then I was taken ashore to the man's cottage where I took off my soaking clothes and was wrapped in something warm and left to sit before the fire while the man and his wife went back to the lake.

I suppose I must have been in something of a state of shock but it still appeals me to recall — as I still do vividly 67 years later — that my overriding concern at that moment was to comfort myself in a manner that would appear appropriate to the situation. I felt stunned, but without emotion. I looked at what had happened and was happening almost as an outsider. And I considered what someone should do who had just seen his father drown. Well, of course he should show grief and concern. So I got up and wandered down towards the lake in my blanket.

My father's death left my uncle John as sole owner of the Manchester Guardian. The two brothers had agreed that in the event of either one dying the survivor should acquire his shares in the paper at a more or less nominal price. And my father's death certainly seriously reduced our family finances. (My uncle John in fact paid for my Cambridge education.)

It was very clear to John

Scott that, as things stood, with himself as sole owner of the paper, there would be no question but that the Inland Revenue would claim that the full value of the Manchester Guardian, and the recently acquired Manchester Evening News, should be included in his estate subject to death duties. It took John Scott until 1936 to come up with what he was advised was the best solution to his problem.

He decided to renounce all financial benefit in the company for himself and his family by transferring all the ordinary shares in the Manchester Guardian and Evening News into a trust. He thus removed the devastating threat to the papers that would otherwise have arisen at his death. But he also took this step in order to ensure that the Manchester Guardian would continue to enjoy editorial independence and would carry on the principles imposed on it by C.P. Scott.

HOWEVER, within a dozen years, the paper's legal advisers began to express doubts as to whether the terms of the 1936 trust would indeed ensure that no tax liability would follow the death of John Scott. And by 1948 my uncle John was clearly a sick man. So it was decided to create a new trust with new terms which would effectively exempt the paper from death duties until the year 2030, the legal limit to the life of the trust.

It was in November, just 50 years ago, that the members of the new trust were assembled, together with the company's solicitor, in the small boardroom at the top of the old Guardian building in Leazes Street, Manchester, in order to sign the new trust deed. It was a brief ceremony which I recall very clearly — if only be-

cause for a moment I became a rich man. But only for a moment. Perhaps 10 minutes.

Of the new trustees five were beneficiaries of the old trust — four grandsons of C.P. Scott, including myself, and the company secretary. We were each handed cheques representing a fifth of the value of the company's ordinary shares. I can't remember the exact amount but it must have been around a quarter of a million pounds — perhaps five or six million pounds in today's money. The company solicitor explained to us that the law required that the cheque we received should be each recipient's unequivocal personal property to do with as he desired. And then one after the other of us, with admirable fortitude, signed away our short-lived fortunes for the benefit of the new trust.

So, to sum up: the chief purpose of the Scott family in setting up a trust was to ensure that the Manchester Guardian would not be seriously crippled at the death of the owning members of the family. Today I believe that the chief purpose of the trust is to ensure that the Guardian cannot fall into unacceptable predatory hands and that it will continue to be run "on the same lines as hitherto" — in other words with the same radical integrity and independence that inspired the paper during C.P. Scott's 57-year editorship. This injunction that each successive Guardian editor receives on his appointment by the Scott Trust — its owners. It gives him incomparable independence. It is the duty of the trust to satisfy it. And that this instruction is being observed.

Richard Scott was chairman of the Scott Trust 1957-94

Blair's latest project would give him a pivotal defence policy

Swimming with Bill

Hugo Young



AT THE height of last weekend's Iraq crisis, President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair spoke to each other eight times in 12 hours. In this week's crisis, if it comes to pass, the traffic will doubtless be the same. It means the British have some influence. Can Mr Blair have talked that often merely to receive his marching orders for the RAF? Plainly this is a two-way conversation, in which the judgment of the lesser leader is valued by the greater.

It's a continuation of countless previous transatlantic conversations. When it comes to military deployment, London is by far Washington's most valuable ally and in circumstances such as now, her only serious one. Though Mr Blair's inaction in endorsing this, especially during his EU presidency early this year, had a blatant innocence, it followed the records of Major, Thatcher and Callaghan. If not quite those of Wilson or Heath, nobody wrote about it much in Washington last week. No US columnist or paper I read had anything to say about Mr Blair's solitary and invaluable support. But in the Pentagon, the State Department and the White House, the Brits lived up to their special place.

The price at which this comes, however, is getting higher. Swift though he was off the mark, Mr Blair has placed another agenda alongside. He's an instinctive Atlanticist, but a calculating European. He may not feel so isolated, still less so two-faced, as some continental leaders think he should. But between his first Iraqi initiative and his last, he started a debate, about the defence of Europe, that goes in a different direction. Though this is rooted in the usual Blair belief that he need make no hard choices and incur no real enemies. It isn't really so. He wants Europe to take more responsibility, get more of its own defence, evolve its own foreign policy. If he is serious, this requires him to call a bluff that Washington is reluctant to place on the record.

He was moved in this direction, first of all, by a sense of humiliation. Again, you notice how ungenerous it was by cynicism. The right of Clinton's emissary, Richard Holbrooke, rather than a European, treating with Milosevic over Kosovo stuck in the British leader's throat. So, in Austria a month ago, he got a discussion started among his peers about ways and means of Europe strengthening its defence presence: a discussion they welcomed not least because it came with no British pre-conceptions, no Thatcher-like insistence on a certain answer before the debate began.

THIS involves, however, the unpacking of a lot of theology. Debates about European defence have been going on since kingdom come, more particularly for the decade since the end of the Cold War. The British aim in the early days has been to try and set aside sterile institutional fixations — the usual interminable talk about the Western European Union and all that — and begin to address the minds of Europeans to practical questions. What is the point of airy-fairy aspirations when Britain packs three-quarters of the total EU punch in deployable military fire-power, and when European defence industries are so reluctant to amalgamate? There are eight European companies making light armoured vehicles, only two American; yet the Pentagon buys 40 times more LAVs than the whole of Europe put together.

In parallel with a sharpening defence awareness, the internal debate about the making of a European foreign policy accelerates. This is provided for in the Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties, and the promised ap-

pointment of a single foreign policy director — the answer to Dr Kissinger's famous question about who he could phone to get "Europe's" response to a crisis — may be imminent. There is wider acceptance than there was even a short time ago of the need for shared analysis and intelligence as the basis for a settled "European" foreign policy, perhaps even with the political committee meeting twice as often as now — though there are numerous wrangles within Whitehall, let alone Europe-wide, as to the modalities of every tiny move towards such apparent national sacrifices.

Below the surface, in short, and obscured by the neurotic frenzy that attaches to economic and monetary union, the case for the common foreign and security policy becomes more deeply understood. It may be years before this reliably produces the kind of concerted action that failed to materialise for so long in the Balkans. But the need for a Europe strong enough to provide Washington with what Douglas Hurd last week called "a valid partner, neither a rival nor a satellite" transcends Britain's irresponsibly European debate.

In this transcendent task, which he takes seriously, Mr Blair thinks of himself as pivotal. This is an easy usage, conveniently satisfying his familiar desire to be the best of all things to all men, the axis on which the two sides, America and Europe, turn. But the indispensability it affects to confer can now be more closely specified.

In Europe, Mr Blair must seek to get his new friends to take defence more seriously. The continentalists who complain about US military domination need to address the consequences of Europe's military



This satisfies Blair's desire to be the axis on which America and Europe turn

capacity being such a small fragment of Washington's. Given her own defence spending, Britain is better placed than anyone to galvanise this debate. But it is quite absurd for middle Europe, Germany not least, to be engaged in aspirations towards a distinctive defence identity while remaining both morally and financially reticent when it comes to practical action.

The pivot, however, locks into another fixture: America's incorrigible ambivalence about what it wants Europe to be and do. Washington wants Europe to share more of the burden: match. But hardly anyone who matters there is prepared to surrender the axiom that Americans must always be in charge. The European defence identity, though formally acknowledged as long ago as 1996, struggles to be brought to birth. The State Department is locked in disagreement about the defining statement — code-named *Trile Crown* — drafted to mark the 50th anniversary of Nato next year.

A pivotal prime minister thus has an opportunity. Rather than just being taken for granted as a joint bomber of Iraq, he has leverage to exert. He can't back down on Clinton now, nor does he want to. But he can ask the Americans if they're as serious about European defence as he is, and show that he's determined at last to modernise what the British mean by Atlanticism.

Stopping shopping

Ros Coward

FORGET global warming: in every town Christmas lights are already blazing. There's a huge increase in adverts for Christmas goods, especially for children, and shops are piled high. The message is "Get spending NOW". With talk of global recession, politicians and economists will be watching closely our willingness to buy loads of stuff no one really wants or needs. It's a reminder that our economy is not so different from the Japanese, who we have been mocking in their desperate attempts to find a Viagra for the pockets. Last week their government decided to give everyone — including children — a £100 voucher to be spent within six months. This is consumerism at its worst. They target children to kick start the economy by buying goods, no matter how wasteful the production of those goods.

In Britain we, too, assume that a society losing the will to spend is bleak news. Growth is a moral absolute for Blair, he's at his most messianic when promising not to preside over economic slowdown.

Just what would happen if an "optimum" desirable growth of 2.5 per cent was actually realised? If the economy grew at this rate over the next century, the GDP would have to grow tenfold — that's 10 times the current level of economic activity. Can you imagine what we will all have to be doing and what level of consumption would be required for that? From an environmental point of view such growth is an appalling prospect.

But it probably won't happen. "We've already hit the buffers," says David Fleming, who yesterday presented his intriguing views on the need for a "lean economy" to a conference on "reconciling economic growth and the environ-

ment". Whether we favour economic growth is irrelevant: various factors are now converging to stop it. On the environmental front, he predicts an oil shock when prices rise, a food shock when food production reaches the limits of intensification; and a water shock

There are heaps of Christmas wastefulness we must negotiate

as ancient aquifers are exhausted. These will coincide with the unpredictable consequences of global warming. Simultaneously economic problems will intensify. The new technology isn't creating more jobs and, as in Japan, people will lose the appetite for limitless consumerism. Increasingly they'll invest in quality of

life, putting money into savings or seeking good housing in crime free areas.

Fleming's is a version of what environmentalists have long warned. But the debate is now more sophisticated. Gone is the idealism of zero growth scenarios or even a return to a barter economy. Now most accept the need for economic growth as an indicator of political and social stability. So they are working on redefinitions of GDP, seeing growth not in terms of output of goods so much as social activity, bringing to the fore environmentally-friendly investment.

It is possible that deep down some politicians recognise the value of this vision. Yesterday environment minister Michael Meacher attended the conference on growth and the environment, while deputy PM Prescott launched a "quality of life" barometer. But there is a massive gap between short term demands and the true

horror of the long term. Prescott's barometer still promotes old fashioned ideas of economic growth side by side with environmental indicators. Politicians can see disaster ahead, but not in their own lifetimes.

We must negotiate the heaps of Christmas wastefulness while sending a message to politicians. Next Saturday we could join Friends of the Earth on their No Shopping Day. Or we could give gifts which would create "environmentally friendly" jobs. Next year Christmas shopping will begin in the shadow of the Millennium: doubtless the exhortation will be for ever more extravagant spending. But a better start to the millennium would be to encourage a dialogue about growth, the environment and the fundamental goals of human economic activity. Does the future lie in making more objects, or in preserving, restoring and enhancing the world we live in?

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We must have safe food

A watchdog is needed now

YESTERDAY'S lifting of the ban on British beef exports by the EU — with only Germany dissenting — marks the end of a distressing and tragic episode in Britain's food history. It won't be any consolation for the 30 people who have died since 1995 after contracting the new variant CJD nor for the unknown number in whom the disease is still incubating. Nor will it address the other extremely serious food problems the country is facing including an appalling rise in incidences of food poisoning and the lack of an effective machinery to deal with safety. Today's Queen's Speech is expected to confirm that the proposed Food Standards Agency has been delayed following opposition from the food distribution industry which complained that the levy on outlets to finance the FSA would amount to a tax on food. Ironically it is the same food distributors that have been accused of profiteering by not reducing prices to reflect the slump in farm incomes.

But at the very least a line can be drawn over part of the past. Most European countries recognise that British beef — 12 years after the first diagnosis of BSE and after the slaughter of 4 million cattle since March, 1996 — is now as safe to eat as any other food. Of course safe to eat is not the same as safe to buy. The British beef industry, which exported almost £520 million worth of beef to the EU in 1996, has a formidable public relations problem trying to persuade sceptical European consumers

to buy British at a time of serious Continental oversupply. The problem would have been even worse but for the thaw in UK/EU relations since the Euro-friendly Labour government was returned to power. The beef problem has always been inextricably entangled with wider political issues.

What should be done now? First, it is still vital to find out exactly what went wrong so that structures can be put in place to prevent a recurrence. One of the root problems is the Ministry of Agriculture which has for far too long represented the interests of producers rather than consumers and which was culpably slow in sharing its concern about BSE with the Department of Health. Former Conservative health minister Edwin Currie told the public inquiry yesterday of the hostility between her department and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) during the early days of the BSE outbreak. In a written statement she described the attitude of agriculture officials as "crass and incompetent".

Second, the Government must lose no time in establishing a genuinely independent Food Standards Agency to stem the worsening problem of contaminated food, including the estimated 9.5 million cases of suspected food poisoning every year. The public has lost confidence in the MAFF. Only a new agency will suffice and in this case Tony Blair must bury his worries about creating new bureaucracies because this problem is too serious to be solved by any other means.

Third, the Government should make more use of American-style public education campaigns as recommended by the Commons agriculture select committee. If they are done too frequently they can lose their impact. But a carefully honed preventive campaign to inform the public about basic food hygiene could prove very rewarding.

Above all, we must discard the secretive culture which exacerbated the consequences of the BSE outbreak. With luck new outbreaks of BSE may now have been curbed. But there are plenty of nasty surprises waiting in the food chain. If we are to learn the lessons of the BSE scandal we need an agency that is vigilant, open and prepared to act with ruthless speed. If it isn't in the Queen's Speech today, then it must be put in place as soon as possible.

Rattling Saddam

It's too little and too late

IF ANYONE imagined that the Iraqi crisis ended when Bill Clinton and Tony Blair called back the bombers, then the events of the last 48 hours have proved how short-sighted they were. Saddam Hussein's men are already piling new obstacles in the path of United Nations weapons inspectors and warnings are being issued. So far, the tone is cool. Washington and London are sensibly distancing themselves from Ambassador Richard Butler and his teams, to drive home the point that the Iraqi leader is defying the will of the entire UN, not just of the two western "hawks" on the security council. It is not, as Baghdad claims, provocative to demand the handover of a document detailing the use of chemical munitions during the eight-year war with Iran. Iraq's pattern of deception and concealment and the fact that it uniquely uses these terrible weapons against its own people amount to more than a reasonable suspicion that it has something to hide.

No easy prescriptions are available for dealing with the Iraqi leader. A more rational man would have seized the carrot being offered him in the summer by the UN, to co-

operate with the inspections, secure a clean bill of health and an early end to sanctions. Divisions between the hawks on the one hand and Russia, France and China on the other were working clearly to his benefit. And, judiciously exploited, they still could. All the more reason to stay cool over the inspections and maintain unity.

But the situation has changed: now both the US and Britain are calling for the overthrow of the regime. Divided Iraqi opposition groups were urged yesterday to overcome their differences though they could not agree to form a government-in-exile. And Britain's support for the indictment of Saddam and his top henchmen for war crimes increases the pressure.

Yet to what end, no-one really knows. Plans for military action — which according to Pentagon estimates could have killed 10,000 Iraqis — were not accompanied by clear thinking about what might happen afterwards. And now, with the focus on political support for the opposition, nobody seems to know what that is supposed to achieve either. Derek Fatchett, the Foreign Office's able minister for the Middle East, put a positive gloss on his meeting yesterday with 16 different exile organisations. But it was not uncharitable to suggest, as one participant did, that, as in the tragic circumstances of 1991, the West is doing too little, far too late, to get rid of Saddam.

Cathode Xmas

Don't let it go down the tube

'TIS the season to watch telly, tra-la-la-la-la-la-la-la. Exactly one month from now, the nation will be gorging itself on "a festival of entertainment," as the TV folk like to put it. Yesterday the BBC unveiled its Christmas

line-up, boasting of such jewels as a Men Behaving Badly yuletide special — it's the morning after, and they've got more than a hangover! — and a showdown between Grant and Tiffany on EastEnders. Further treats are promised from Noel Edmonds, Jim Davidson and the boys who Think It's All Over. Wallace & Gromit's inventors are to have a new show, Reeves and Mortimer will offer an alternative to the Queen and — a real heartwarmer, this — BBC1 will show us a "glimpse of the early life of the Queen Mother."

We can hardly wait. Our double-edition of the Radio Times cannot come off the presses quick enough: we are standing by with pen in hand, ready to circle our favourites and plan our holiday viewing. We've already sent Dad out to get a family-pack of videotapes, so that what we can't watch, we tape.

But wait! A guilty voice nags at our shoulder: conscience sends a pang. Is this really what Christmas should be about? Must we always spend our biggest national holiday stuffed with turkey and pud, vegging out on marathon-hours of telly? Is it written that Christmas must be the square-every season of goggle, the annual celebration of cathode? Americans will mark Thanksgiving this week: families gathering, eating hefty portions of turkey, just as we shall in a month's time. But watching TV will play no role in that ritual. Come Christmas Day, the telly will be just as absent from the US household: indeed, the big American networks table some of their latest programming in late December, knowing that no one will be watching. Maybe we should try something similar. A Christmas of carols and jingle bells, open sleighs and family rows, rather than comedy specials and bumper holiday films. How about it? Less Jim Davidson and more of each other.

Letters to the Editor

On safety, snells and sex

SAFETY precautions in the Channel Tunnel may not be perfect (Channel safety warning, November 21), but they are far in advance of any other major European tunnel. The service/emergency tunnel is unique from the Severn to the Gotthard and beyond. Any hiccup should concentrate on the other, in none of them would a serious train fire be a major survivors. J R Batts, Banbury, Oxon.

THE Co-op Bank's survey (Most like it soundless, November 23) confirms that most people do not want piped music while waiting on the phone. To all previous complaints, companies who have installed it on their phone systems have handily replied: most customers prefer it. Most people don't want piped music in shops, pubs, restaurants, airports etc either. Poor old Vivaldi — the four seasons was a decent piece of music once. Nigel Rodgers, Hove, Sussex.

YOUR report (Mutant insect invasion, November 23) quotes Dr Peter McEwen of Insect Investigations as saying "insects are a scourge on humanity", a point of view which ignores the economic importance of many insects as pollinators (bees, for example) and in pest control (eg ladybirds). Adrian Smith, Leeds.

MANY insects are harmless, indeed beneficial to our world, which is more than can be said for the indiscriminate use of insecticides. Of course, as I am sure was the point, we should be concerned by the arrival of some of those mentioned. Alan Street, Sudbury, Suffolk.

ALAN Head (Letters, November 23) writes "that if one is always going around in a sanitised state, then one has never experienced the smell and taste of one's partner, which doesn't say much for the British sex life". Given that the French are fond of garlic, mouldy old cheeses, snails, frogs legs and rancid cider, Mr Head turns my stomach. It's a less epicurean sex life for me. Nick Clark, Twickenham, Middx.

Sticking the needle in

WHEN are we going to stop according to the medical profession a status akin to God (Dirty doctors, November 21)? Not only does this give them licence to assault and maim women, it seems to allow them to continue to carry on their crimes for years because no one would believe a doctor could do such a thing. There is another way in which doctors have powers which would be thought unreasonable for anyone else. General practitioners can strike any patient off their list at any time on a mere whim. Patients have no form of appeal or redress. The health authority then allocates the patient to other GPs on a rota system, each taking the patient for 90 days at a time in a game of pass the patient. We cannot go on allowing such power to people just because they have a medical degree. Is it time for a patients' revolution? Janny Morgan, Solihull.

IT IS hard to over-estimate the sense of betrayal I, like many others, feel when faced with the backsliding on Labour's manifesto commitments. As a GP I am required to collect data on various aspects of my patients' health. I am expected to produce a local strategy for reducing deaths due to heart disease. At the same time I have to watch while the same Government backs down on a commitment to ban cigarette advertising. I have been a GP for 12 years

and I have never seen morale as low as it is now. We are told that primary care is the jewel in the crown of the NHS. If that is the case, why are there over 1,000 unfilled GP posts? Eight years ago the Government brought in compulsory retirement at 70 — now most GPs retire before 65 and aim to retire at 55-60.

A strike would be much less damaging to the NHS than this constant haemorrhage of staff to the private sector. Dr Mark Hayes, Leeds.

YET another nasty, scathing, doctor-bashing article. I do not deny there is a small percentage of doctors who are inconsiderate or just plain not very good. But so there is in any profession. What about the other 99.99 per cent of us? It is time the public realised that medicine is a job, like any other. Do we hear almost daily about corrupt butchers, dentists, accountants, lawyers, or, heaven forbid, journalists in such twisted and bitter terms?

If Ms Bennett would like a more realistic view of medical practice, the dedication, care, and goodwill that most of us display despite the long hours, the paperwork, the politics, and the stress, then I invite her to come and spend a week at work with me. She would find that the only people treated like a "lump of recalcitrant meat" are the medical staff. Dr Natalie Smith, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex.

WHAT a contrast between Dr Martin Lupton's dignified letter (November 21) and Catherine Bennett's outpourings. Does Ms Bennett realise what a demoralising effect attacks like hers have on personnel in the NHS? As an employee of this service, I witness almost daily the lowering of morale among colleagues. Sweeping, vindictive criticism of health-care workers, whether GPs, obstetricians, or gynaecologists, does not help the vast numbers of patients seeking advice and reassurance at a time when they are vulnerable.

I have had two babies delivered by male obstetricians. How naive of me not to realise they were seeking vicarious pleasure from examinations I accepted to be in the best interests of myself and my children. Surgery and treatment for breast cancer by a male surgeon and a male oncologist was carried out in a compassionate, professional and at times humorous way. I did not flatter myself their "probing fingers" were doing anything but the jobs for which they were trained. Rosemary Boulton, Daventry, Northamptonshire.

THE problem with Dr Lupton's motivation is that women may not need rescuing. She would find that again on the notion of working with women in an adult-to-adult, participative and partnership sort of way? Susan Sage, Southwold, Suffolk.



New water plan is full of leaks

THE Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, has announced the government's intention to change the rules pertaining to water meters for domestic consumers (Meacher move will push up water bill, November 19). After some years of policy by successive governments encouraging the installation of meters for presumed heavy users of water, Mr Meacher proposes a U-turn, suggesting that all should have the right to water free at the point of use.

Although the Government press release issued last that day departed to some extent from this position, it included the concept that anybody on a meter would find their bill greater than it had been under the set charge would have the right to revert to that system. The current wet weather should not divert us from the reality that trends in climate

change, increasing demand and the wish to leave water in the natural environment, mark water as a precious commodity. Demand management has a crucial role to play. A policy to reinstate free use to known heavy users would defy logic.

It also seems to be inconsistent with the keynote address given by the Deputy Prime Minister nine months ago at a seminar organised by this institution in which the need for metering as part of demand management was recognised. Mr Meacher should think again — or Mr Prescott should think again for him. Roger Sainsbury, President, Institution of Civil Engineers.

Please include a postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a daytime telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear.

Oldies of all ages put their case for a better deal

THE announcement by Alastair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security, that widowers would be given equal treatment in paying benefits on the death of a spouse, is extremely welcome (Meo gain at cost to some widows, November 19). The Government was undoubtedly under legal pressure from the case in the European Court. Nonetheless his change of heart is much appreciated by those affected.

This decision follows an earlier case in Europe outlawing gender discrimination and we now hope that the third very important cause — equalisation of old age pension rights — can be achieved. There is no reason in law, equity or justice why half the population should be discriminated against by receiving their old-age pension only at the age of 65 (men) while the other half gets it at the earlier age of 60. The Government ought to look at this before

they are forced into a change by legal action. John Mays, Chairman, Parity.

WELL does for highlighting the plight of mature students (Age of uncertainty, G2, November 18) who experience difficulties in gaining employment. Most mature students attend university in the hope of enhancing their career prospects. However, on completion of their course, many now find that they are likely to be discriminated against when seeking employment. The latest university and colleges admissions figures revealed the number of mature applicants to be down by one-third on last year. Considering that many mature students now encounter "ageism" in the pursuit of employment, it is hardly surprising that fewer are now applying to undertake degree courses. Brian Alexis, London.

Listing towards Lord Archer

THE open list system (I like the closed list, November 23) would mean that, in a 10-member region, a voter would be confronted by a ballot paper with 40 to 50 candidates. A voter who had decided to vote, say, Labour would then have to choose between 10 different Labour candidates. It would be nice to think that such a choice would be made after a detailed consideration of the different candidates and any shades of political difference between them. In fact, at best, the system is likely to favour the candidate from each party whose name appears first on the ballot paper. At worst, it will favour the one

with the greatest flair for self-publicity. Ian Peacock, London.

COUNTRIES with open lists have a specific problem: they introduce a bias to rich candidates. It is not sufficient to help your party do well, you also have to attract more votes than your fellow candidates. Elections therefore feature heavy advertising from the wealthier candidates, to enable them to leapfrog their poorer colleagues. Lord Archer would thrive in an open list system. Nick Palmer MP, Labour, Broxtowe.

FOR years millions of us have been taking part in open list elections where more than one candidate wins, yet I have never heard candidates from the same party "attacking each other". Local council elections work with open list voting and so can the European Parliamentary elections. Robert Howard, Lenton, Notts.

IT IS nonsense to say the closed list denies the elector the right to vote for their chosen candidate. To my recollection, only Dick Tavener and Martin Bell were elected as independent candidates in recent years. Voting by proportional representation would give the electorate the first time the

real prospect to have some members in the European Parliament. Equally important, the ethnic minority votes would matter. Tara Kumar Mukherjee, President, Confederation of Indian Organisations (UK).

IN the ordered open list system the elector can vote either for the party list, or for an individual candidate. This system is used in Belgium, Denmark and Netherlands. It allows the best to present an ordered list to the electors but provides a democratic safeguard allowing voters to change that order if enough of them opt to vote for a candidate rather than the list. Alan Francis, Chair, Green Party executive.

Farmed out

SO the pampered elite that is the farming community has once again been given a big cash handout at the expense of we taxpayers (Government throws lifeline to farmers, November 17). In the real world, business is run by making profits. Farming runs on getting money for nothing from hard-pressed taxpayers.

Meanwhile 6,000 steel workers are made compulsorily redundant without even an expression of concern from anyone, let alone any subsidy. No farmers will be in anything like their predicament. They will have their nice country life. And yet all they can do is moan and ask for more. Perhaps the steel meo should have indulged in the kind of violent demonstrations indulged in by farmers which apparently so impressed Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown, that he gave into them.

They say they're having a hard time because of BSE. But they were responsible for BSE! And the victims of the farmers' poisoned beef have not received a penny of compensation. And no doubt there'll be more champagne and caviar at Number 10 for the NFU bosses who, of course, will be demanding yet more money. It's very disappointing to discover that this Labour government is just as scared of the farmers and landowners as the Tories before them. Sally Curtis, Plymouth.

Science friction

I HAVE complained several times about your coverage of science fiction, so I feel I ought to congratulate you on Martin Woolcott's excellent piece, (Star gazing, November 21). I don't know if there's any significance to the fact that this was in the main section, where SF still doesn't get any meaningful coverage.

Not all SF is serious, but some of it aspires to be. As with all fiction, the less serious is often perceived by publishers and media conglomerates as more marketable, so serious SF is in difficulties. It is regarded with suspicion by publishers and disdain by the literary establishment.

Despite the media explosion of science fiction and fictional science, non-habitual readers don't get any guidance from editors as to which writers and magazines they should think of looking at. I suspect this is because literary teaching emphasises periods when science was in its infancy and society changed only slowly. Since Gernsback coined the term "science fiction" in the twenties, this has obviously not been the case. The canon of literature has thundered ineffectually against the technology of the future. You need more SF reviews and articles: if your present literary team can't organise this, give the job to Martin Woolcott! Peter T. Garratt, Brighton.

QUOTE OF THE DAY FROM CORBY

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John Glenn

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Gérard Grisey

Music of the universe

GÉRARD Grisey, who has died of an aneurysm aged 52, disliked the label of "French composer", yet in the best sense he epitomised just that. His music was precise, colourful and witty, and unencumbered by self-seriousness. Unlike his teachers, he did not have to make the often difficult transition from an old to a new music or take part in the post-war battles against the Austro-German tradition.

In 1974 his first important work, *Derives*, announced him as a child of the new: he blurred the boundaries between duration, time, timbre and harmony; he abandoned concrete ideas for process and resonance, and even though the orchestral forces were huge, he issued fastidious performing instructions. No French composer since Ravel has had a better ear for sonority.

But there was a paradox. His music was mainly instrumental and electronic, with few concessions to text-setting and none to the theatre; his titles were often formalist — his largest work, *Les Espaces Acoustiques*, was for a variety of forces from solo to orchestral, called *Prologue* (1976), *Périodes* (1974), *Partiels* (1975), *Modulations* (1978), *Transitoires* (1981) and *Épilogue* (1985). Yet the creative character behind these abstractions was youthful, occasionally naive, he relished the directness of Varese and Janáček, and yet poetic and refined. To support musical contrasts he cited laws of night and day from the mythology of ancient Egypt (*Anubis-Nout*, 1983). He responded to Stockhausen with a choral incantation of words of love in many languages (*Chants d'Amour*, 1984, his Tristan). He received pulses from outer

space during his *Le Noir de L'Etoile* (1980). He placed man in a relative sonic universe, which incorporated the deep slow rhythms of whales and the high rapid ones of birds, in *Le Temps* (1989). And he invoked Piero della Francesca's poignant *Madonna del*

from 1963 to 1965, he worked until 1972 with Olivier Messiaen in Paris, where he won many prizes at the Conservatoire. At the same time, he studied acoustics and electro-acoustics in the science faculty. He attended composition classes under

was an inspiring teacher. After a time in 1980 in the electronic studios of IRCAM in Paris, he was at the University of California at Berkeley's faculty of music from 1982 to 1986, becoming professor of composition at the Paris Conservatoire (now La Villette).

In his later years, he was a much-featured composer at large European festivals of music in Berlin, Huddersfield, Strasbourg and IRCAM, and his music was regularly performed, broadcast and recorded by leading ensembles and conductors, including Pierre Boulez. His final work was commissioned by the London Sinfonietta and it will be performed next February 3, by George Benjamin.

Grisey was a person of remarkable charm and character, who died on the threshold of major public recognition. He is survived by his wife, Mireille Guilguy.

Christopher Wintle

Gérard Grisey, composer, born 1946; died November 11, 1998



Gérard Grisey. "Everything is movement" he wrote of his music

His music was performed, broadcast and recorded by leading ensembles and conductors, including Pierre Boulez. He was just on the threshold of major public recognition when he died

A Country Diary

ABERDEENSHIRE: The Loch of Strathbeg, an RSPB reserve, is the largest loch in Britain. In the winter it can host 37,000 pink-footed geese, 20 per cent of the world population of these birds. They set off from their breeding grounds in Iceland and can arrive here eight hours later. Notorious as grass eaters, they have to be careful where they land, but here the ground is ready for them. Experiments with different qualities of grass have demonstrated that they are able to discern poor grass, walking over it to tug at richer.

When we visited there was a NW gale blowing so movement was difficult. Mallard, teal and widgeon paddled in sheltered bays. Swans flew in with the wind, turned and allowed air and gravity to skid them on to the loch, their wings simply balancing them. Young cormorants dived and flattered their wings. Herons tried flight, but quickly organised their great wings towards a suitable grassy bank. Many stood by the shore hunched up like disconsolate backbenchers hoping for better things.

A sparrow hawk clutched the top of a fence post before realising the shelter provided lower down, where a support saved it from buffeting. Its hasty dashes for prey were not rewarded. Here, too, you can see flocks of lapwings, one of the first birds I learned to identify. Their appearance, flight and rituals delight as much as their numerical diminution distresses. But here they are.

AUDREY INSCHE



Alfred Bingham campaigning... born to old American money, but convinced of the justice of the New Deal

Alfred Bingham

In the Depression was he depressed? Nowhere near

THE AMERICAN publisher and writer, Alfred Bingham, who has died aged 83, was not so much a Bollinger radical as a Roosevelt radical. Born with a silver spoon in his mouth — a less metaphorical phrase than usual, since his mother was the granddaughter of Charles

Tiffany, founder of the Fifth Avenue Jeweller, while his father's family really did come over on the Mayflower — he founded the radical journal *Common Sense* in the 1930s. Its motto was "product for use, not for profit". Bingham hoped to make it the core of a new, anti-capitalist third party to challenge the Democrats and Republicans. It never happened.

His political journey was a kind of parable of that of many upper-class Americans who were shaken out of their inherited beliefs by the Depression and by the rise of fascism, then returned to the fold after flirting with socialist and radical ideas. Bingham began as a Republican, passed through a socialist phase, and ended as a New Deal Democrat.

Many of the best and best-known writers of the time wrote for *Common Sense*, including novelists and critics

James Agee, John Dos Passos, Theodore Dreiser and Edmund Wilson. The journal's politics were far left. It advocated replacing the capitalist system, which Bingham considered "not worth saving", with a planned economy and a classless society.

Once in New York, he got himself thrown out of the Empire Room at the Waldorf Astoria — the sort of place where he might have been invited to lunch with his godparents — after attempting to interrupt the serving of dinner with a speech on behalf of striking waiters.

Bingham was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and grew up in Prospect Street. There the grandest of the Yale community brought up large families in immense houses. In the protestant religion and Republican politics. His grandfather and great-grandfather were both missionaries in the Pacific, but his father, Hiram Bingham III, who had taught Latin-American history at Yale, was the discoverer of the fabulous deserted Inca city of Machu Picchu, before he settled down to become a conservative Republican senator in Washington.

Bingham went to Groton, the "American Eton", and to Yale law school, where his professors included two future Supreme Court justices, William O. Douglas and Felix Frankfurter. But he left before graduating to do something surprising but somehow in keeping with his times — take a number of working-class jobs. Then he spent two years going round the world and interviewing political leaders, including Mussolini and Gandhi. He also visited the Soviet Union and was impressed by the first five-year plan. It was the moneyed equivalent of becoming a hobo.

In 1932, he returned to the US and founded *Common Sense*. He was also active in the American Civil Liberties Union, then a radical body that defended union organisers and black victims of southern "justice", and he joined the socialist Farmer-Labor movement in Minnesota, run by his friend Governor Floyd Olson. At one point he was arrested for picketing in Jersey City, New Jersey, which was then run with a rod of iron by the notorious boss Frank Hague. He also wrote three books advocating radical ideas. When the second world

war broke out, however, Bingham abandoned his more extreme ideas and accepted the American two-party system. He was elected for a single term in the Connecticut state senate; by now he was living in the family home in Salem, Connecticut. After war service in the US army, he qualified and practised as a lawyer, and he ran unsuccessfully for the US Congress in 1952.

The political genes passed to his son Stephen. In 1974, the young man was charged with smuggling a gun into San Quentin jail, California, for George Jackson, a famous black radical, who used it in an unsuccessful escape attempt and killed a man in the process. After 11 years on the run from the law, Stephen surrendered, and his father spent most of what was left of his inherited fortune on lawyers' fees.

Bingham's first wife, Sylvia, died in 1981 and he married Katherine Stryker Dunn. She survives him, as do three sons, a daughter, and five grandchildren.

Godfrey Hodgson

Alfred Mitchell Bingham, publisher and writer, born February 20, 1905; died November 2, 1998

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A report headed, We want the Queen to rule over us again, says Fijian, Page 3, November 21, we quoted a retired cook, "whose descendants were labourers indentured from India by Britain [in the] last century". We meant to say "whose ancestors" etc.

IN LISTENING Brief, our guide to radio programmes, Page 31, November 20, we referred to Alistair Cooke as embarking on "his ninth decade". He is, of course, embarking on his 10th decade.

DELIUS's *The Noonday Witch*, mentioned in a diary, Page 13, the Saturday Review, November 21, should have been Dvorak's *The Noon Witch* (Polonaise).

IN THE Face to Faith column, Laying ghosts in Auschwitz, Page 23, November 21, an error slipped through, mis-spelling as Kakkish, the name of the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead. Apologies.

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 235 9589 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 5997. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

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Henry James

In and out and in at the door of No 10

UNBELIEVABLE as it may now seem (after the careers of press secretaries like Bernard Ingham and Alastair Campbell), Henry James, who has died at the age of 78, was a charming and courteous gentleman — and he treated journalists as if they, too, were gentlemen. He was at 10 Downing Street as press secretary to four prime ministers.

In years as the Manchester Evening News lobby correspondent, I had experienced many well-mannered civil servants. But Henry's anxiety to convey as much information as his masters allowed was exceptional. It was not rare for him to take you aside after a briefing to check that you had taken on board the full import of one of his observations. His respect for objective information was to be his undoing with leaders wanting cheerleaders more willing to slant information in their favour. Heath, Wilson and Thatcher eased him out of No 10.

He had been born in the Black Country and educated at King Edward VI School, Birmingham, and Birmingham University, but Henry was devoted of Brummie cadences. My Birmingham Evening Mail col-



Henry James... in good humour with prime ministers

league never intimated that Henry had been London correspondent and drama critic of the Birmingham News between 1947 and 1961. While editing a magazine for the Ministry of National Insurance, he had planned to become a mathematician but his future wife, Sylvia Bickell, persuaded him to become a civil servant. He joined the Ministry of Health in 1962. His writing ability brought him to London in 1948 as the government information service was changing its style. Between 1955 and 1961, he was the Admiralty's head of films, radio and television, when he worked with film director Herbert Wilcox.

His promotion to chief press officer at the Ministry of Education in 1963 was followed by his transfer to No 10 as deputy public relations adviser in 1964. Initially to Sir Alec Douglas-Home in the last months of his premiership, then to Harold Wilson until 1968. In 1969, Joe Haines, loyal to Labour and Harold Wilson, took over Henry's job, while Henry became chief information officer at the Ministry of Housing.

In 1970, Henry served the new prime minister Edward Heath as press secretary, before becoming director of in-

formation at the Department of the Environment, then director-general of the Central Office of Information. He returned to No 10 for a year in 1979, when Mrs Thatcher became prime minister. He called at the torrid Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting at Lusaka was said to have lowered the temperature. But Mrs Thatcher wanted a cheerleader, and replaced him with Bernard Ingham.

This led to his departure from the Civil Service, with a C3, to take a well-paid public relations role at Vickers. He was subsequently director-general of the National Association of Pension Funds, director-general of the European Federation for Retirement Provision, and then vice-president of the Retirement Trust.

As a former president of the Institute of Public Relations, he was a firm advocate of professionalism. He never gave in to publishing offers to dish the dirt on No 10.

His wife Sylvia died in 1989. They had no children.

Andrew Roth

Henry James, civil servant, born December 12, 1919; died November 10, 1998

Victor Griffiths

Practical science

IN 1946, Victor Griffiths, who has died at the age of 78, was a brilliant student at Battersea Polytechnic. By the 1960s, it had become the University of Surrey, and Griffiths — or "Griff" — was a professor, and in 1968, pro-vice-chancellor. Griff was remarkably talented in teaching and research; a born leader, an astute negotiator.

He was the last of six children. His parents ran a wharfage contractor's business on the Grand Union Canal and he won a scholarship to Isleworth County School. He then took a job with a tiny local cosmetics firm and later worked at Crookes Laboratories, which brought him under the influence of Professor Morton, and he started studying chemistry at night.

With the war, he was captured in the fighting around Dunkirk, and spent the next five years as a prisoner. He escaped — and was recaptured a few miles from the Swiss frontier.

Demobilised in 1946, he graduated with a first in chemistry from Battersea Polytechnic in 1948. Professor Joseph Kenyon FRS saw Griff's ability and persuaded him to join the Battersea teaching staff. But at that time, such colleges could attract little research funding. So Griff begged, borrowed and built apparatus and saw to it that his many findings were not only published as research papers, but were put into practice on the factory floor, in the electroplating industry.

In 1968 Battersea Polytechnic became a college of advanced technology. Griff joined its governing body and became its reader in spectroscopy. Soon he was heading the new department of spectroscopy and chemical physics.

Then it was decided that CATs should appoint profes-

among the first to be appointed. Then Battersea Polytechnic became the University of Surrey in Guildford, and Griff was effectively put in charge of the building operations. His skill as a negotiator came to the fore and the substantial university buildings on Stag Hill, overlooking the town, are a fitting tribute to him. After his 1968 appointment as pro-vice-chancellor, he was reappointed in 1971, and appointed as a permanent in 1975. He had a great fondness for students, many were the times when he had to get students out of trouble. The University of Surrey enjoys a degree of cordiality between students and staff not found everywhere. Surrey in 1968 avoided the wave of student unrest that swept the world, in no small measure due to his influence.

THIS influence spread far beyond his university. He served on the governing bodies of many institutions, including Kingston Polytechnic, the (then) Guildford School of Art and the Guildford School of Acting.

In retirement, he was active in the administration of housing schemes for mentally handicapped people and youngsters on probation. Loveable and likeable, a great believer in the possibilities of bitter as an aid in solving disputes, he was a man of immense wisdom. The loss is great as one of the university cleaners said, he made time for everybody. He was a devoted family man and is survived by his wife Olga — they married in 1946 — and his son, and daughter.

Arthur Tarrant

Victor Sidney Griffiths, teacher and electrochemist, born August 17, 1919; died October 27, 1998

Birthdays

David Blakey, chief constable, West Mercia, 55; Ian Botham, cricketer, 43; Lynn Chadwick, sculptor, 84; Willy Claes, former secretary-general, Nato, 60; Billy Connolly, comedian, 56; Beryl Cooper, QC, crown court recorder, 71; Elizabeth Fisher, circuit judge, 54; David Kossoff, actor, 79; Prof Sir Claus Moser, statistician, former chairman, Covent Garden, 78; Graham Price, rugby player, 47; Jonathan Routh, Welsh rugby captain, 36; Robin Williamson, rock musician, 55.

Death Notices

HAWPER, Elsie, deeply beloved husband of Kay, and brother of Keith. His family mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father. Died peacefully at home on 17th November at Milton Keynes.

HOWATT, James M. L., Ophthalmologist, died peacefully at home with his family after a long illness. Services at United Reformed Church, Bagenal's Cross, at 1.30pm on Friday 27th November followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to Marie Curie Nurses or Sight Savers (Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind), c/o J. Barlow & Sons, 571 Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE4 9PD.

WALTHAM, Peter Charles Waltham, on 17th November mourned the loss of his partner to Susan, father to Robin, Martin, Luke and Kathryn, bassman to dogs Gertie and Billy. Contribution of the use of his health contribution, Bingley Road, Bingley, Bradford on Friday 27th November at 12 noon Donations to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

In Memoriam

HAWKES, Douglas William, the happy times spent together are unforgettable RIP

PHILLIPS, John, 24/11/45 - 24/11/98. You made the fun.

Births

HAWKES, Joseph, born at 1.45pm, 22nd November, at King's College Hospital, London, to Helen and Bill. A brother for Ellie (who wanted a sister but remains delightfully single).

To place your announcement telephonically 0171 235 9589 or fax 0171 235 9597 between 9am and 5pm Mon-Fri.

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FinanceGuardian

Engineers weld £8bn pact

Roger Cowe

B RITAIN's biggest engineering group will emerge from an £8 billion merger announced yesterday between the conglomerate BTR and Siebe, a business which was founded on driving gear and has become the country's most successful engineering company.

The new group will have 120,000 staff and sales of nearly £25 billion, the bulk in the United States. It will make products ranging from Exide batteries to sophisticated industrial automation and rival world leaders ABB and Siemens in automation and control equipment.

Lord Marshall, the British Airways chairman who is also chairman of Siebe and will lead the BTR-Siebe combine, said the merger would create a more effective company. "Together we will be more effective in gaining new business, cutting costs, growing revenue and delivering greater shareholder value than if we had remained separate organisations."

Cost-cutting will claim the 70-strong Siebe head office in Windsor and up to 1,000 other jobs in the UK, out of a total of 5,000 job losses anticipated over the next two years.

The group saving is estimated to be £30 million in the first year, with annual expenditure cut by £250 million a year by 2001.

Shareholders reacted positively to the news, pushing up both companies' share prices in anticipation of a boost to profits. Siebe shares rose by 13 per cent while BTR, boosted by hopes that an alternative bidder might intervene with a higher price, added 44 per cent.

How they line up

	Siebe	BTR
Q: Market of employees	54,000	70,000
Q: Market capital	£4.5bn	£2.1bn
Q: Revenue	£2,400m	£2,200m
Q: Dividends	£1.02bn	£2.07bn
Share performance		
Q: Stock 1 January 1998	-28.21%	-18.97%
Q: 10 All-share index	-33.77%	-33.77%

Some observers argued that BTR shareholders were getting a rough deal, suggesting this increased the likelihood of an alternative takeover offer. BTR shareholders will end up with only 45 per cent of the group, despite having higher sales, profits and net assets than Siebe.

Ian Strachan, the BTR chief executive who will be executive deputy chairman of the new group, said the deal was struck on the basis of the companies' average share

Notebook

Markets buy the Greenspan fix



Edited by
Larry Elliott

WELL, that's it then. The crisis is over, stock markets are almost back to the levels of July, before the Russia's debt default brought prices crashing down. If the bulls are right, the panic in August and September was a blip, just like that of October 1987.

Supporting the optimistic view of equities has been the idea that Fed chairman Alan Greenspan can save the world. Lower interest rates are seen as ensuring that corporate profitability will be strong, thereby justifying the historically hugely inflationary price-earnings ratios.

It is, of course, possible that Mr Greenspan really is Wall Street's equivalent of Superman. Soft landings do happen, although not nearly as often as financial markets like to think. But there are two diametrically opposite reasons for suggesting caution.

the response should Mr Greenspan publicly contemplate such a move only serves to show how dangerously overbought the market is.

Trust tryst

AFTER a less than discreet courtship the Deutsche Bank has finally got Bankers Trust to the altar. The German bank is having to stump up a hefty marriage settlement to land the biggest acquisition of a US bank by a foreign buyer.

But what is it getting for its cash? Certainly the pairing looks big enough on paper — the combined market capitalisation will be somewhere north of \$40 billion. The question is whether the two will be more or less than the sum of the parts.

Deutsche gets the US acquisition it cherished and expertise in high-yield bonds. It may also get some of the Wall Street "can do" approach giving US banks the confident edge (some would say arrogance) in the battle for euro market share.

Nevertheless, the combination looks light in the mergers and acquisitions department, and the marriage will get off to a rocky start if some of the expected job losses do materialise.

It is hard to avoid the feeling that Bankers Trust is prepared to countenance Deutsche Bank's suit because its own recent problems have left it vulnerable. Nor does Deutsche Bank's acquisitions history inspire unquestioned confidence. This is not a marriage made in heaven.

Lucky Siebe

BTR WAS one of the glory stocks of the 1980s. Along with Hanson it rampaged through sleepy British and US industry, making a fortune for shareholders who managed to sell before the conglomerate fashion ended in the early 1990s.

The merger announced yesterday, which to all parties amounts to a takeover by Siebe — represents a surrender after years of failing to recapture the glory of the takeover years.

But it is not quite the victory for long-termism that might be hoped. In many respects, Siebe's success has been based on the same principles which shot BTR to stardom — cut costs, play safe, look for short-term returns.

Siebe got lucky, however, when one of its acquisitions turned out to contain a superb company with skills in the field of automatic controls. That has become its focus and will be the main strength of the combined group.

It should reinforce the message already evident in the demise of BTR and its 1980s co-star, Hanson, that takeovers provide merely temporary respite from the need to develop fine products for growing markets. Being incredibly efficient at producing very ordinary products is no longer enough — as the old BTR found to its cost. The trick is to become incredibly efficient at developing extraordinary new ones.

UK risks isolation in Europe

Martin Walker in Brussels

B RITAIN was heading back to its traditional isolation in Europe yesterday, after blocking as "unacceptable" a far-reaching plan from other EU left-of-centre parties and governments for a harmonised tax system.

The plan calls for a sweeping change in the way that national insurance and social security taxes are collected, so that they would be based on overall company profits and gross value-added receipts rather than simply on a company's payroll.

This would cut the tax costs for labour-intensive industries, while boosting taxes for such capital-intensive British companies as BP, BT, and the hi-tech and software sectors. It would hit the City particularly. Given the financial centre's high contribution to GDP in proportion to its workforce, its payroll taxes could be increased tenfold.

The French and German finance ministers yesterday waved aside Gordon Brown's threat to use Britain's veto to ensure that taxation powers remained with the House of Commons. "We will during our presidency push so that we have the first results on tax co-ordination," said Oskar Lafontaine, finance minister of Germany, which takes over the EU presidency in January.

Britain took a virile position on taxes at this meeting, but nevertheless I think a tax code should be ready for the end of the German presidency," said France's Dominique Strauss-Kahn.

Britain fought hard to prevent the gathering of Europe's Socialist and Social Democrat finance ministers from even discussing the plan put forward by the Party of European Socialists' working group on taxes.

The PES plan also proposes a minimum level of corporation tax to be imposed across Europe, along with new accounting systems to prevent multi-nationals from allocating profits elsewhere.

"Corporate taxes can only be compared if profits have been calculated on the basis of comparable criteria," the draft report says. This would require "a standardisation of the calculation of profits under common rules on depreciation and common definitions of the tax base".

The PES plan includes a detailed account of the maximalist position of Europe's tax reformers. It was put forward as an alternative to the more business-friendly British draft paper, The New European Way. "Tax harmonisation is not the way forward for Europe," Mr Brown said yesterday during the monthly Ecofin meeting of finance ministers. "We want to eliminate unfair tax competition, but Britain has and will continue to have a veto on tax proposals in Europe."

The PES plan, An Important Role for Socialists and Social Democrats, stresses the determination of the tax harmonisers to shift the tax burden from labour towards capital and their readiness to enforce it.

The plan says: "Immediate action is required to eliminate tax havens throughout the EU. The existence of tax havens in small countries or autonomous areas that build part of their economy on providing opportunities for tax evasion and tax fraud — is a threat to other states."

"Exiating autonomous areas within Europe should be subject to the same rules in the field of taxation or be denied the benefits of the internal market."

The threat to the Channel Islands and Isle of Man and possibly Gibraltar has never been more bluntly stated.

Footprints in Europe



Rupert Murdoch and Letizia Moratti announce terms in riverside gardens in London yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Murdoch invades Continent

Terry Macalister

RUPERT Murdoch yesterday signalled his long-awaited invasion of mainland Europe in a move which could influence the political debate in Britain over monetary union.

The media magnate is to establish a new operating company, News Corp Europe, to co-ordinate his interests on the Continent in an attempt to replicate the success of BSkyB.

Industry observers said last night there were signs that efforts to build a presence in Europe were softening Mr Murdoch's negative stance regarding closer European integration.

News Corp Europe will be based in Milan, with Letizia Moratti, a former boss of Italian state television broadcaster RAI, as its chairman. News Corp Europe's first project is a 100-channel pay-TV business in Italy under discussion with Telecom Italia and TFI of France.

News Corp Europe is also talking to TFI about a new cable and satellite channel in France, targeted at 15- to 25-year-olds. Similar discussions with German interests have been going on for some time.

At a London press conference Mr Murdoch said News Corp Europe will be used to investigate and manage media investments across the whole of continental Europe.

It will be 100 per cent owned by Mr Murdoch's News Corp group but he is looking for equity partners

for up to 20 per cent of the company in the short term. News Corp has plenty of cash after the successful \$2.8 billion (£1.7 billion) float of 18.8 per cent of Fox Entertainment Group.

The plans for Italy mean Mr Murdoch has for the moment sidelined former Italian prime minister and media chief Silvio Berlusconi, with whom he had hoped to conclude a deal.

Instead, Telecom Italia would have a 51 per cent of the stock. News Corp Europe 39 per cent and TFI

10 per cent. A final deal depends on the approval of Franco Barnabe, who was last week appointed chief executive of Telecom Italia.

Talks between Barnabe and Mr Murdoch on the venture trunk place over the weekend.

Asked yesterday whether he could become a late convert to the EMU, Mr Murdoch said: "I never saw myself as a Euro-sceptic... I believe that European-wide media can provide a great deal more value than some enforced currency."

Chrysalis and Border tune in for digital FM bids

The new licences, granted after a "beauty parade" by applicants, have the capacity to carry seven digital stations on the radio frequency previously required for one analogue station.

Mr Huntingford said that the reward for existing regional broadcasters securing digital licences was that their analogue licences would automatically be extended for a further eight years, taking most of them into the second decade of the next century.

He added that Chrysalis's share of investment in the new digital stations would be about £2.5 million over five years. If the joint venture wins the licences, the digital stations will not go on air for at least 18 months.

Microsoft feels heat of Netscape fusion

Mark Tran in New York

MICROSOFT said yesterday that the proposed deal between America Online and Netscape Communications, which would combine the world's dominant online player with the pioneering internet software company, proved that the software group faced strong competition.

"The proposed deal demonstrates a simple truth, that there is vigorous competition in the marketplace and that Microsoft faces resourceful and capable competitors," said Bill Netcom, Microsoft's senior vice-president for law and corporate affairs, as the Microsoft antitrust trial entered its sixth week.

Microsoft's attempt to use

news of the possible alliance to its legal advantage came as AOL confirmed that it is negotiating to buy Netscape in a deal which could pose a significant challenge to Microsoft in the race to create "portals" or mega websites offering a plethora of services from news and information to shopping. Should a deal be consummated, AOL would pay an estimated \$4 billion in a share swap for the company. Sun Microsystems, a software rival to Microsoft, would also be part of the equation. It would enter a joint marketing and development partnership with Sun to strengthen Netscape's other business of selling software to corporations. However, AOL warned that "there can be no assurance that an agreement will be reached or consummated."

Microsoft's attempt to use

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FSA rules may give suspects legal aid

Dan Atkinson

D RACONIAN powers for the City's new police man, the Financial Services Authority, could entitle suspected fraudsters to millions of pounds in legal aid.

Should judges in London or Strasbourg consider the authority to be effectively running its own private criminal court, any defendant short of funds would be entitled to public support.

That means legislation establishing the FSA, due in the Queen's Speech today, could blow a hole in parallel legislation aimed at putting a lid on the ballooning costs of legal aid, now running at £783 million a year.

More seriously for the FSA, any ruling that its planned tribunal is a criminal rather than a civil court would rob its investigators of their most powerful weapon — the removal of the right to silence from suspects.

neat Saunders suffered a violation of his human rights when forced to give evidence to the Department of Trade and Industry inspectors which was used in his subsequent fraud trial.

Fears that the Financial Services and Markets Bill — the chief instrument under which the FSA will operate — could be gutted by the incorporation of the European Convention of Human Rights were raised by Anthony Lester QC, the Liberal Democrat peer, who has written that the proposed tribunal would be deemed a criminal rather than a civil body.

Legal opinion from Mr Lester was commissioned by the London Investment Banking Association. It found three important consequences for the FSA. Defendants would be entitled to legal aid; those interrogated by the FSA prior to a tribunal appearance could claim the right to silence; and a criminal standard of proof, "beyond reasonable doubt", would apply to the tribunal, rather than a civil standard of a "balance of probability".

Deutsche closes in on Bankers Trust



Rolf Breuer knew he was nearing a \$9 billion deal when he attended the European Bankers Congress in Frankfurt on Friday. PHOTOGRAPH: RALPH ORLOWSKI

1,000 at risk in banks' big deal

Jill Treanor

AS MANY as 1,000 jobs may face the axe in the City after Germany's Deutsche Bank admitted yesterday that it was in the final stages of buying Bankers Trust of the US for more than \$9 billion (\$5.5 billion), the biggest foreign takeover of a US bank.

The deal, which will create one of the world's biggest financial services firms, led to huge gains on US and European stock markets. But London bankers fear it will provoke a bloodbath in the City which is already nursing heavy job losses after the turmoil that swept world markets in the late summer.

Deutsche, which bought the British financial institution Morgan Grenfell in 1989, employs 6,200 people in the City of London while Bankers Trust, which bought some of NatWest's investment banking business earlier this year, employs more than 3,000 in the UK.

The two banks said yesterday that they were in "the advanced stages of negotiations concerning a potential cash merger" but added that final board meetings to approve the deal would not take place until Sunday.

They are now finalising the structural and legal aspects of the transaction, which brings an end to months of speculation about Deutsche's intentions in the US. They have already agreed that the deal will take place at a price of 90p per Bankers Trust share. The shares were trading at 85p yesterday.

The German bank, chaired by Rolf Breuer, has made no secret of its ambitions in the US and has been linked in recent months with an array of American financial services companies, including JP Morgan, Donaldson Lufkin and Jenrette, Lehman Brothers and PaineWebber.

"We are working diligently to finalise all terms in preparation for the Sunday meeting of our supervisory board," Mr Breuer said yesterday. The banks have scheduled meetings with regulators for the coming days.

The mega-deal with Bankers Trust, which only last month

was forced to deny rumours that it was facing bankruptcy, will still not earn Deutsche Bank a place in the list of the top investment banks.

Bankers in London said Deutsche needed to clinch a deal in the US in order to reach American investors and offer European clients access to the world's biggest capital market after the single European currency is introduced next year.

The quest for expansion has also been accelerated by the wave of mergers and acquisitions which has swept the US market and led to the creation of the Citicorp/Travelers Group. But these mega-mergers have since run into difficulties because of volatility in the markets which have forced many banks to report substantial losses in the third quarter.

Jobs were already thought to be at risk at Bankers Trust, which last month reported its biggest loss for 10 years and announced plans to cut costs by 8 per cent.

London bankers speculated that the BT Alex Brown business, the investment banking unit which incorporates the NatWest pan-European equity business, would face

'No doubt we will see a lot of blood shed in London' one banking source said

job losses because of the overlap with Deutsche in London, and could be spun off to a separate buyer.

"No doubt we will see a lot of blood shed in London," one banking source said. The recent merger between Swiss banks UBS and SBC led to 3,000 jobs being cut although banking sources said the Deutsche and Bankers Trust deal might not merit such drastic reductions.

● **Dresdner**, Germany's second-biggest bank, fuelled speculation that it could soon follow Deutsche's lead when its chief executive, Bernhard Walter, said a big merger was "a very clear option".

Guardian Royal Exchange says it has several suitors

GUARDIAN Royal Exchange yesterday admitted that it is considering a number of takeover offers, *writes Jill Treanor*.

The admission sent the insurer's share price racing 13 per cent higher. The shares ended the day at 350p, a level at which City analysts believe a deal could be struck.

The company last night refused to name its suitors but sources suggested that AXA of France, Allianz of Germany and AIG of the US were among those to have

expressed an interest in a takeover.

Guardian, which is being advised by Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, is one of the UK's last remaining independent general insurance companies and a deal would add its name to the list of those which have merged or been taken over in recent years.

The company is facing increasing competition and tough market conditions, and has been tipped in the Square Mile as a takeover target for many months.

The predator

Expansion born of obsession

DEUTSCHE Bank's move to get serious on Wall Street is the biggest gamble undertaken by Rolf Breuer, the company's chief, in the 18 months since he succeeded Hilmar Kopper as chairman.

With assets of \$334 billion, Deutsche is Europe's biggest commercial bank and the mightiest figure of corporate Germany.

But German analysts are sceptical about the Breuer strategy of establishing an investment banking presence on Wall Street.

The doubts originate in the mixed results of Deutsche's previous moves in the sector. In 1989, it scooped up Morgan Grenfell in London and gave its investment activities a higher profile.

The new institute was named Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. But earlier this year the same went and the

corporate and investment sides were merged, in what was seen as a tacit admission of failure.

The bottom line for Mr Breuer appears to be acquiring a US bank as the only way of competing in the global investment league.

The Düsseldorf business daily Handelsblatt described him as a success-obsessed hate figure. "Many don't like him, many even hate him. But everybody respects him."

Earlier this year he unveiled a billion-pound restructuring blueprint for single-currency Europe. Deutsche would concentrate on: personal banking and small business; medium-size business and real estate; transactional corporations; asset management; and transaction banking.

Ian Traynor in Bonn

The prey

Losses fuel attacks on chairman

THE sale of Bankers Trust to Deutsche Bank would take considerable pressure off its chairman Frank Newman, who has come under fire for the bank's dismal performance following heavy losses from exposure to Russia and Asia.

America's eighth-largest bank, Bankers Trust lost \$488 million (\$296 million) in the third quarter and announced plans to cut significantly its workforce of 15,000 employees.

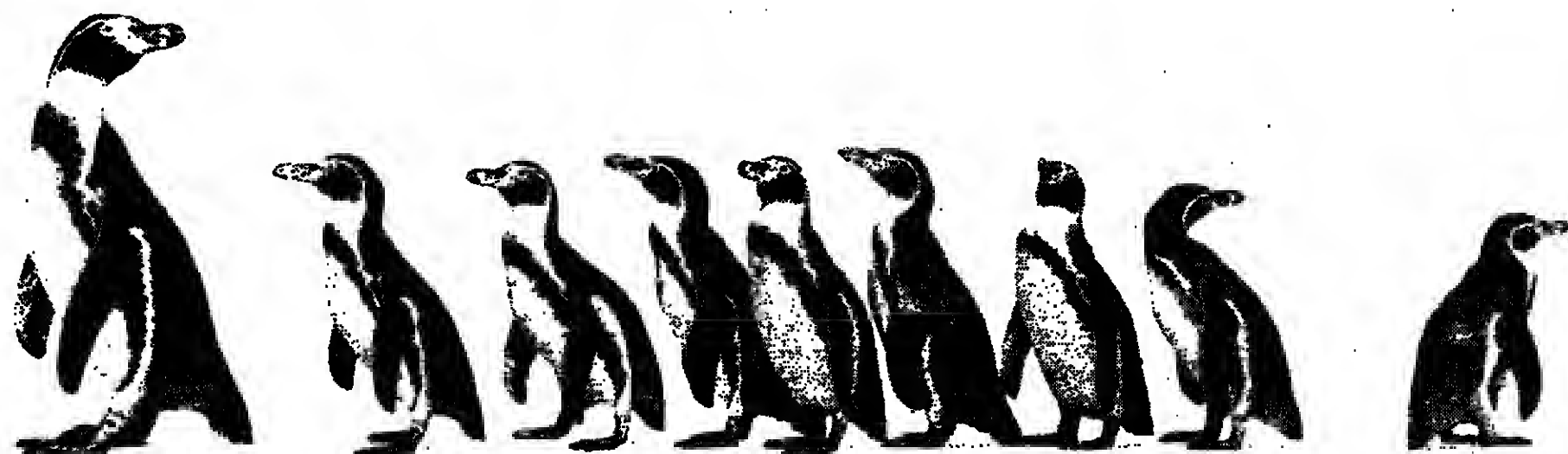
A former deputy secretary at the US Treasury, Mr Newman arrived at the company just three years ago, when the bank needed a radical facelift. Important customers such as Procter & Gamble had accused the bank of misleading them about the value of exotic derivatives contracts it had sold them. The derivatives debacle was a

damaging blow to the bank's reputation as an innovative commercial bank that was transforming itself into a Wall Street investment bank.

"Frank was brought in here as Mr Control, Mr Risk Management, Mr Regulator," said one banker. "That's his strength. But then this emerging market thing hit and everyone says, what the hell is this?" People complained of Mr Newman's lavish, jet-setting ways when the bank was going through difficult times.

Should the deal with Deutsche Bank go through, Mr Newman is expected to join Deutsche Bank's managing board and co-manage a new unit combining Bankers Trust with Deutsche's global corporate and institutional banking division. Mark Tran in New York

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Tennis: ATP Tour World Championship



Waiting in the wings... Rusedski, second from right and waiting on Agassi's fitness, with the definite starters in Hanover's ATP Tour World Championship this week. Left to right, Moya, Kafelnikov, Henman, Corretja, Rios, Sampras and Kucera

Agassi's back keeps Rusedski on hold

Stephen Bierley in Hanover on the chance of a double British interest in the year's finale

THE essential business of this week's \$2.2 million ATP Tour Finals is to decide whether Pete Sampras can prevent Andre Agassi from finishing the year as the world's No. 1 for the sixth successive time, thereby breaking the record he jointly holds with his fellow American Jimmy Connors.

Sampras leads Rios by a mere 33 points, roughly the same as the margin which saw Britain's No. 2 Greg Rusedski miss out to Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov for a place in this eight-man end-of-season climax.

Rusedski sat one seat away from Tim Henman at yesterday's televised draw, ostensibly keeping it warm for Agassi, who injured his back earlier in the day. Agassi, never a lover of pre-tournament ceremonies, did not exactly take to his bed but received treatment from the ATP physio Alex Stober.

"You don't wish an injury on anybody," said Rusedski, "but he will be keeping his fingers crossed between now and tomorrow when Agassi, who was practising with Spain's Alex Corretja when he was injured, is due to play his opening match."

Should Agassi's back not respond to treatment, Rusedski will find himself in the White group with Henman,

Rios and Corretja. "I fell down, jolted my back and it went into spasms," said Agassi.

Henman opens up tonight against Rios, potentially one of the best of the 12 round-robin matches, leading to Saturday's semi-finals. The pair have met twice before, Henman losing to the Chilean in the semi-finals of the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne and later, more predictably, on the red clay of Rome at the Italian Open.

"Quite honestly I was happy to avoid Sampras and I was not to get through to Saturday's semi-finals," said Henman, who clinched his qualification 10 days ago in Stockholm. "It was a very tense time for me prior to Stockholm. I'm not sure who was the more nervous — me

or my coach David Felgate."

Henman, who arrived in a sub-zero Hanover on Saturday night, practised yesterday with Kafelnikov and left his mark on the Greenset indoor court, the soles of his new shoes making huge black marks on the blue surface.

There had been black looks and blue words the last time Henman and Kafelnikov met in the Paris Indoor Open, when the Russian, who beat Henman in the quarter-finals there, accused him of not apologising for his numerous net-cuts.

"I had a few more when we were practising here and put up both hands in apology," smiled Henman who, after the rigours of Stockholm, took himself off for three days of golf and now appears fit and relaxed.

The Red group consists of Sampras, Spain's Carlos Moya, Karol Kucera of Slovakia and Kafelnikov. "No disrespect to Tim but I think it is the harder group," said Rusedski, who could barely contain himself with the thought of replacing Agassi and then playing Henman.

Rusedski's semi-final defeat in Stockholm against Thomas Johansson not only ruined his chances of automatic entry here but also cost him the chance to become the British No. 1 and to finish in the top 10 for a second successive year.

Sampras opens up against Kafelnikov, whom he defeated in last year's final. Sampras's fourth win at this indoor tournament since 1991. Last year the No. 1 lost his opening round-robin match against Moya whereas Andre's Pat Rafter, missing through injury this year, won his first two matches but failed to qualify for the semi-finals.

Such is the nature of round robins. "This tournament is unique but it does not seem right you can lose your first match and still go through," said Henman.

Sampras, who spent six successive weeks playing indoor tournaments in Europe in his attempt to achieve the record, has also been hampered by back pain. "What I needed was a few days to relax," he said. "I'm fine."

The ATP Tour, the men's ruling body, wants everybody to believe these are the "World Championships" but the winner is never referred to as such. Indeed, the players still refer to this tournament as the "Finals", its old name. And the master, again, is expected to be Sampras.

SPORTS NEWS 13

Racing

Johnson and Maude are hit by whip bans

Graham Rock

RICHARD JOHNSON and Chris Maude became the latest jockeys to get embroiled in the whip controversy when both were banned yesterday for infringing the rules.

Coming hard on the heels of Tony McCoy's 14-day ban, this makes life difficult for trainer Martin Pipe, who was hoping to use Johnson and Maude as replacements in the champion's enforced absence.

Maude was suspended for five days after finishing third on Doyenne at Windsor, having used his whip with excessive frequency. "I think five days was a bit harsh. But I'm just bloody annoyed with myself for being so silly as to get banned while AP (McCoy) is off," he said.

At Ludlow, Johnson picked up a four-day ban, being adjudged to have used his whip with excessive force, and to have injured Glaisnock Lad, who won the novice chase by a neck. "I'm really gutted. I try so hard to use my whip in the right way so no one gets offended," he said.

"I see little point in appealing. This puts me on 15 days under the totting-up system. One more ban and I face a lengthy suspension. It's all very frustrating."

Glaisnock Lad's trainer, Robert Alner, was unhappy with the decision. "I've seen jockeys hammer horses and get clean away, but Richard did the minimum necessary to win and it leaves a sour taste. The stewards told me, but should know the horse marks. How come? I don't go round hitting them."

Johnson seemed unsure of the rules. "The way things are going I just wonder what we are meant to do," he said.

The RSPCA is hoping to progress the whip debate by holding a seminar in London tomorrow. The meeting will be chaired by the Society's Director General, Sir Peter Davies, who will be accompanied by the chief veterinary officer, Jim Phillips, and their equine consultant Bernard Donigan. Among those invited are John Dunlop, Stan Mellor, Peter Scudamore and Sir Peter O'Sullivan.

A prominent campaigner on behalf of horse welfare, O'Sullivan hopes the meeting will help resolve some of the difficulties.

"We will be trying to look for a way forward, if there is a way," he said. "The more informed jockeys are, the more likely they will be to accept that there has to be a restriction."

"I've been an owner for many years and I've been lucky enough to have 42 winners, but my jockeys are always told they can hit a horse three times, and no more. I think owners should become more involved. They should take more responsibility."

One jockey who has avoided the recent controversy is the former champion Richard Dunwoody, who has been booked by James Fanshawe to ride The Tolseach in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup on Saturday.

Fanshawe is pleased with his easy Ascot winner. "He has been up since the race and I'm happy with him," he said.

As expected, Sunnys Bay was not declared yesterday. The new top weight, Senor El Beñutí, holds an alternative engagement at Newbury the previous afternoon, and it is probable that Addington Bay and Come Hill will head the handicap on the day.

The going at Newbury is presently good with good to soft patches, which would rule out seven runners, but Boss Doyle is a definite runner and was backed from 12-1 to 8-1 yesterday.

Venetia Williams, who trains the 11-4 favourite, Teeton Mill, has entered her Cheltenham winner Lady Rebecca in three races on Saturday, including the Gerry Fielden at Newbury and the Fighting Fifth at Newcastle.

Among the runners at Gosforth Park will be Midnight Legend, who returned to David Nicholson's stable three months ago, having covered 34 mares at stud.

Worcester Jackpot card

COX	TOP FORM
1.00 Siren Song	Siren Song
1.25 Mithras (jok)	Lord Of The River (jok)
2.10 Parafire	Bridge Of Forno
2.45 Bridge Of Forno	Seymour (jok)
3.55 Whistling Bells	Whistling Bells

Left-handed crack of 1 inch with 220yds run-in. Flat with easy turns. A very fast, galloping crack. Crack straight good to soft. ♦ Donkey blunders. ♦ Top form noted.

Seven-day winners: None.

Blindfolded first time: 1.35 Golden Film; 2.45 Anglia; 3.55 Teri Of Diamonds. Visited: None.

Placed in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. F.H.

COX	TOP FORM
1.00 COMMANDERY NOVICE HURDLE	2m 22.30 (7 declared)
1.01 5-40	5-40
1.02 5-40	5-40
1.03 5-40	5-40
1.04 5-40	5-40
1.05 5-40	5-40
1.06 5-40	5-40
1.07 5-40	5-40
1.08 5-40	5-40
1.09 5-40	5-40
1.10 5-40	5-40
1.11 5-40	5-40
1.12 5-40	5-40
1.13 5-40	5-40
1.14 5-40	5-40
1.15 5-40	5-40
1.16 5-40	5-40
1.17 5-40	5-40
1.18 5-40	5-40
1.19 5-40	5-40
1.20 5-40	5-40

COX	TOP FORM
1.35 RACING CHAMPION AVAILABLE ON TELEVISION HURDLE CHASE	2m 41.10yds £2,900 (6 declared)
1.36 1-10	1-10
1.37 1-10	1-10
1.38 1-10	1-10
1.39 1-10	1-10
1.40 1-10	1-10
1.41 1-10	1-10
1.42 1-10	1-10
1.43 1-10	1-10
1.44 1-10	1-10
1.45 1-10	1-10
1.46 1-10	1-10
1.47 1-10	1-10
1.48 1-10	1-10
1.49 1-10	1-10
1.50 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
2.10 TOTE PLACELOT BATTLE WORCESTER	2m 71.10yds £12,740 (7 declared)
2.11 1-10	1-10
2.12 1-10	1-10
2.13 1-10	1-10
2.14 1-10	1-10
2.15 1-10	1-10
2.16 1-10	1-10
2.17 1-10	1-10
2.18 1-10	1-10
2.19 1-10	1-10
2.20 1-10	1-10
2.21 1-10	1-10
2.22 1-10	1-10
2.23 1-10	1-10
2.24 1-10	1-10
2.25 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
2.45 MAIN EVENT CATERING HANDICAP	2m 41.10yds £5,768 (6 declared)
2.46 1-10	1-10
2.47 1-10	1-10
2.48 1-10	1-10
2.49 1-10	1-10
2.50 1-10	1-10
2.51 1-10	1-10
2.52 1-10	1-10
2.53 1-10	1-10
2.54 1-10	1-10
2.55 1-10	1-10
2.56 1-10	1-10
2.57 1-10	1-10
2.58 1-10	1-10
2.59 1-10	1-10
2.60 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
3.55 PITCHCROFT NOVICE HURDLE	2m 42.40 (11 declared)
3.56 1-10	1-10
3.57 1-10	1-10
3.58 1-10	1-10
3.59 1-10	1-10
3.60 1-10	1-10
3.61 1-10	1-10
3.62 1-10	1-10
3.63 1-10	1-10
3.64 1-10	1-10
3.65 1-10	1-10
3.66 1-10	1-10
3.67 1-10	1-10
3.68 1-10	1-10
3.69 1-10	1-10
3.70 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.00 COMMANDERY NOVICE HURDLE	2m 22.30 (7 declared)
1.01 5-40	5-40
1.02 5-40	5-40
1.03 5-40	5-40
1.04 5-40	5-40
1.05 5-40	5-40
1.06 5-40	5-40
1.07 5-40	5-40
1.08 5-40	5-40
1.09 5-40	5-40
1.10 5-40	5-40
1.11 5-40	5-40
1.12 5-40	5-40
1.13 5-40	5-40
1.14 5-40	5-40
1.15 5-40	5-40
1.16 5-40	5-40
1.17 5-40	5-40
1.18 5-40	5-40
1.19 5-40	5-40
1.20 5-40	5-40

Lingfield all-weather Flat

COX	TOP FORM
1.10 FAUCETS MAIDEN STAKES 2YO	7m 22.05 (16 declared)
1.11 1-10	1-10
1.12 1-10	1-10
1.13 1-10	1-10
1.14 1-10	1-10
1.15 1-10	1-10
1.16 1-10	1-10
1.17 1-10	1-10
1.18 1-10	1-10
1.19 1-10	1-10
1.20 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.14 FAUCETS APPRENTICE H'CAP	1m 21.81 (12 declared)
1.15 1-10	1-10
1.16 1-10	1-10
1.17 1-10	1-10
1.18 1-10	1-10
1.19 1-10	1-10
1.20 1-10	1-10
1.21 1-10	1-10
1.22 1-10	1-10
1.23 1-10	1-10
1.24 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.210 FAUCETS CLAIMING STAKES (DIV 1)	1m 22.05 (12 declared)
1.211 1-10	1-10
1.212 1-10	1-10
1.213 1-10	1-10
1.214 1-10	1-10
1.215 1-10	1-10
1.216 1-10	1-10
1.217 1-10	1-10
1.218 1-10	1-10
1.219 1-10	1-10
1.220 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.240 FAUCETS CLAIMING STAKES (DIV 2)	1m 22.05 (12 declared)
1.241 1-10	1-10
1.242 1-10	1-10
1.243 1-10	1-10
1.244 1-10	1-10
1.245 1-10	1-10
1.246 1-10	1-10
1.247 1-10	1-10
1.248 1-10	1-10
1.249 1-10	1-10
1.250 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.255 LADDERBROOK TROPHY H'CAP (DIV 1)	1m 22.27 (12 declared)
1.256 1-10	1-10
1.257 1-10	1-10
1.258 1-10	1-10
1.259 1-10	1-10
1.260 1-10	1-10
1.261 1-10	1-10
1.262 1-10	1-10
1.263 1-10	1-10
1.264 1-10	1-10
1.265 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.300 LADDERBROOK TROPHY H'CAP (DIV 2)	1m 22.81 (12 declared)
1.301 1-10	1-10
1.302 1-10	1-10
1.303 1-10	1-10
1.304 1-10	1-10
1.305 1-10	1-10
1.306 1-10	1-10
1.307 1-10	1-10
1.308 1-10	1-10
1.309 1-10	1-10
1.310 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.315 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.316 1-10	1-10
1.317 1-10	1-10
1.318 1-10	1-10
1.319 1-10	1-10
1.320 1-10	1-10
1.321 1-10	1-10
1.322 1-10	1-10
1.323 1-10	1-10
1.324 1-10	1-10
1.325 1-10	1-10

Market Rasen

COX	TOP FORM
1.250 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.251 1-10	1-10
1.252 1-10	1-10
1.253 1-10	1-10
1.254 1-10	1-10
1.255 1-10	1-10
1.256 1-10	1-10
1.257 1-10	1-10
1.258 1-10	1-10
1.259 1-10	1-10
1.260 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.255 LADDERBROOK TROPHY H'CAP (DIV 1)	1m 22.27 (12 declared)
1.256 1-10	1-10
1.257 1-10	1-10
1.258 1-10	1-10
1.259 1-10	1-10
1.260 1-10	1-10
1.261 1-10	1-10
1.262 1-10	1-10
1.263 1-10	1-10
1.264 1-10	1-10
1.265 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.300 LADDERBROOK TROPHY H'CAP (DIV 2)	1m 22.81 (12 declared)
1.301 1-10	1-10
1.302 1-10	1-10
1.303 1-10	1-10
1.304 1-10	1-10
1.305 1-10	1-10
1.306 1-10	1-10
1.307 1-10	1-10
1.308 1-10	1-10
1.309 1-10	1-10
1.310 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.315 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.316 1-10	1-10
1.317 1-10	1-10
1.318 1-10	1-10
1.319 1-10	1-10
1.320 1-10	1-10
1.321 1-10	1-10
1.322 1-10	1-10
1.323 1-10	1-10
1.324 1-10	1-10
1.325 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.320 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.321 1-10	1-10
1.322 1-10	1-10
1.323 1-10	1-10
1.324 1-10	1-10
1.325 1-10	1-10
1.326 1-10	1-10
1.327 1-10	1-10
1.328 1-10	1-10
1.329 1-10	1-10
1.330 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.325 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.326 1-10	1-10
1.327 1-10	1-10
1.328 1-10	1-10
1.329 1-10	1-10
1.330 1-10	1-10
1.331 1-10	1-10
1.332 1-10	1-10
1.333 1-10	1-10
1.334 1-10	1-10
1.335 1-10	1-10

COX	TOP FORM
1.330 AIR PRODUCTS ACTS HANDICAP CHASE	2m 11.10yds £3,410 (5 declared)
1.331 1-10	1-10
1.332 1-10	1-10
1.333 1-10	1-10
1.334 1-10	1-10
1.335 1-10	1-10
1.336 1-10	1-10
1.337 1-10	1-10
1.338 1-10	1-10
1.339 1-10	1-10
1.340 1-10	1-10

Football

Angry Redknapp may be tempted by Blackburn job

Martin Thorpe

HARRY REDKNAPP could be a surprise candidate for the manager's job at Blackburn Rovers after falling out with his beloved West Ham. Redknapp was left seething when the Hammers' chief executive Peter Storrer interfered in team matters by pulling Andrew Impey from the side to play at Derby on Sunday, pending the winger's £1.5 million proposed transfer to Leicester City. Impey will make his decision today.

Rovers' secretary Tom Finn, who held the position at West Ham for many years, is now understood to be pressing his friend's claims for the Blackburn vacancy after the sacking of Roy Hodgson. The club's shortlist already includes their former captain Colin Hendry and the former Liverpool manager Roy Evans, who has been sounded out on his availability.

Redknapp, who has taken West Ham to sixth place in the Premiership despite a limited budget, would be interested in managing a club with money to spend. Living in the North-west would also relocate him and his wife Sandra nearer to their son Jamie at Liverpool.

In addition, the offer of a four-year deal at Ewood Park would set up the 51-year-old for life. He has long been dissatisfied with his West Ham salary of around £350,000.

The current unrest was sparked by the West Ham board's decision to sell a player by the end of November to balance the books. At Leicester's request Impey was withdrawn by Storrer from the team for Sunday's game after the acceptance of City's bid and pending talks on personal terms.

This prompted Redknapp to complain that football decisions were being made by "non-football people", which provoked Storrer to say yesterday: "I am insulted by Harry Redknapp's remarks and I shall be asking him for a personal apology. I know as much about football as anybody."

Late yesterday Storrer said: "Harry has apologised for his comments and now realises he got too heated." However, it only worsened the feud as Redknapp said: "We had a board meeting on Monday afternoon at which it was agreed no more players would be sold. All I said was, 'as far as I'm concerned, remarks were possibly made on both sides that were over the top.'" After Storrer had with-

drawn Impey from the team on Sunday an angry Redknapp said: "I prepared the team with Impey in it and then he is taken away the day before the match. Impey could have played, then talked to Leicester on Monday."

"I understand we have to sell people if we're skint but the way it was handled is wrong. I've been undermined in front of the players and everybody and I'm not having it. I'm not a mug. I'm not going to let people walk all over me. This is the problem when you get non-footballing people involving themselves."

Storrer stuck to his guns yesterday. "This is all about budgets," he said. "I have no intention of getting the sack for not doing my job."

Meanwhile Blackburn have pledged to make a speedy appointment. The assistant manager Tony Parkes has been placed in temporary charge of team matters, the fourth time he has stepped into the breach, though again he insists he does not want the job full-time.

However, Hendry yesterday made it clear that he was like the chance. "I've never hidden my ambition to become involved in coaching and management."

Collymore waits on FA

Russell Thomas

THE FA will decide this week whether to charge Aston Villa's Stan Collymore with misconduct for allegedly baiting Liverpool fans after being sent off at Villa Park. The striker headed towards his former club's supporters, kissing the Villa badge on his shirt and impersonating the comedian Harry Enfield's "calm-down" Scouser character on his TV programme.

The FA was yesterday awaiting reports from the referees Peter Jones and other officials before considering any action.

But the FA will not pursue Collymore's controversial tackle on Liverpool's Steven Gerrard which brought Collymore his first caution of Saturday's match, when a red card was expected. An FA spokesman confirmed: "The referee made his decision and that's as far as things go."

Monaghan's manager John Gregory, who could fine Collymore up to two weeks' wages, yesterday insisted talks with the player on his behaviour and any club punishment would be a "private issue and remain so."

Further pressure on Gregory came from the Professional Footballers' Association whose deputy

chief executive Brendan Batson warned on the dangers of indiscipline which are the biggest influence on the players and the manager, in particular, should preach such a message."

Nottingham Forest's manager Dave Bassett has rejected an offer for Pierre van Hooijdonk, which Bassett said the bid was £4.5 million but David O'Leary claimed he was "prepared to go to £4 million but not the £4 million quoted. The deal is dead."

Allan Nielsen and Colin Calderwood have signed new Tottenham contracts after impressing the manager George Graham.



Holding company... Nikos Dabizas of Newcastle sends off Everton's Danny Cadamarteri at Goodison Park last night

PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HENRY

Premiership: Everton 1 Newcastle United 0

Gullit plunged into deeper gloom

Michael Walker sees Michael Ball's penalty give Everton a first home win

MICHAEL BALL's well-taken penalty midway through the second Premiership game scored by Everton at Goodison all season, allowed Walter Smith's side temporary respite from a possible descent into a relegation battle and left Ronald Gullit's Newcastle United looking nervously over their shoulders this morning.

They will still see Everton and a few others there, but that is some consolation. This was as bad a Newcastle display as there has been under Gullit, and the manager's success has been based upon that transfer money more urgently than at any time in his three months in charge.

The too-good-to-go-down cliché was trotted out about Blackburn in several quarters yesterday, but enough of a sentiment rarely used in the Everton context over the past few seasons. Having won only two of their previous 13 league matches, the Blues are bad enough to be relegated, though Newcastle's Greek centre half was the leading scorer on show with just three to his credit this season.

Those neutrals already pessimistic about seeing a glut of goals received dreaded reassurance when the two sides appeared. Nikos Dabizas, Newcastle's Greek centre half, was the leading scorer on show with just three to his credit this season.

Unsurprisingly, given the under-confidence in both camps, the early stages were scrappy with no one in either half capable of directing play and both defences looking edgy. It seemed certain that any breakthrough would come as the result of a defender's mistake.

Sure enough, Newcastle's left-back Carl Serrant supplied it, lunging at Don Hutchison inside the area near the byline when all that was needed was cautious shepherding. Hutchison went to ground, Serrant was booked and Ball drilled in the penalty kick in the 18th minute with calm assurance.

Newcastle's reaction was tame intellectually and emotionally. Everton's message, that the lifting of their spirits was sufficient for them to assume territorial superiority. Just past the half-hour interval

hima Bakayoko went close twice. First he turned Laurent Charvet easily and then forced an impressive block from Shay Given, then he flicked a Hutchison chip deftly but narrowly wide of Given's right-hand post.

At half-time Serrant paid for his earlier error as Philippe Albert, told last week that he is surplus to requirements at St James' Park, came on in a formation re-jigged to 3-5-2 by Gullit.

But the effect of the switch was not immediate and instead it was Everton, via two left-footed strikes from John Collins, who looked the more attack conscious.

Not until the 56th minute did Newcastle mount anything resembling a similar threat, then Keith Gillespie skinned Ball and delivered a tempting cross, only for Richard Dunne to clear it without

the goalkeeper Thomas Myhre being needed.

Sixteen minutes from the end Myhre at last made a save. It came from Dietmar Hamann's free-kick, the German having belatedly replaced Warren Barton, but Myhre was able to smother the deflected shot.

At the other end, after finally relieving Newcastle's low-quality siege, Everton, almost scored a second when Dave Watson applied the best touch in a goalmouth scramble from a corner by Collins. But his shot from six yards hit a black-and-white shirt and the ball was cleared to safety.

Everton (3-5-2): Myhre; Short, Watson, Unsworth, Dunne, Grant, Collins, Hutchison, Ball, Bakayoko (Mullins, Hamann, Barton, Serrant, Albert, Gillespie, Lee, Best, Spence, Rodgers, Barry (Scunthorpe).

Uefa Cup third round, first leg: Celta Vigo v Liverpool

Villa foundations cheer Houllier

Ian Ross in Vigo

NOTHING lasts for ever in football and for that reassuring cliché Gérard Houllier is probably exceedingly grateful.

Having been told by all and sundry that he had accepted sole responsibility for Liverpool's fortunes at precisely the wrong time, the Frenchman will have permitted himself a wry smile late on Saturday night as he settled down to Match of the Day with a glass of classy red.

As he watched his side climb purposefully out of a spell of impoverished form by

inflicting Aston Villa's first league defeat of the season, Houllier will have learned that in Spain, as in England, unbeaten sequences are there to be ended.

This evening Liverpool contest a place in the last eight of this season's Uefa Cup with Celta Vigo, who were surprisingly dislodged from the top of the Spanish first division at the weekend after succumbing, Villa-style, to a struggling team Alaves.

But Celta, who overcame Villa in the competition's previous round, are unbeaten at home in domestic football for

precisely a year. Perhaps more significantly they have no regard for reputation, something they underscored 10 days ago in defeating Real Madrid at the Bernabé Stadium. They now lie second in the table behind Mallorca.

"They are a fine team, a passing team which can be both flamboyant and creative," Houllier said.

It is conceivable that this may have been settled in Valencia three weeks ago when Paul Ince and Steve McManaman collected three-and-a-half game suspensions respectively.

Of late McManaman has

tended to reserve his better moments for the European arena, but the manager has served up, as will Ince, as a mitigating factor should the wheels come off again in Celta's Balaidos Stadium.

Houllier will probably stick with the five-man defence which proved reasonably effective against Villa, with Stig Bjornebye replacing the injured Steve Harkness on the left.

Ince's likely deputy is Jason McAteer, whose tireless running could prove invaluable against opponents whose success has been based upon a commendable work rate.

Rangers v Parma

Advocaat plays chance card

Patrick Gleeson

THE instinct to find a bolt-hole in the aftermath of a 5-1 thrashing by one's fiercest rivals has to be suppressed by Rangers at Ibrox tonight when they face another rigorous test.

Mild relief arrived yesterday with the news that the Celtic striker Enrico Chiesa had been left at home with a hamstring injury but Scots' joy would have been tempered by the fact that Chiesa's place will be taken by another formidable forward, the Argentinian Abel Balbo.

Rangers are weakened by the suspension of the Dutch midfielder Giovanni van Bronckhorst, the Finn who is their leading scorer in Europe with five goals, looks likely to return from injury.

The central defender Lorenzo Amoruso is also back after a two-match domestic ban. "Within three days of the Celtic defeat our players have a chance to show how they can really perform," said Advocaat. "They have to take that chance."

Advocaat will probably tinker with Rangers' normal style to counter the Italians'

formation, in which the Argentinian Juan Veron is a huge influence, playing behind the strikers. "I don't like to change how our team plays, especially in a home match," he said, "but we have to think about things like that."

Parma arrived in Glasgow yesterday also without their midfielder Diego Fuser, who has an infected toe, and the defender Roberto Mussi. Rangers (probable, 4-4-2): Nemet; Porro, Hendry, Amoruso, Numan, Kanchelskis, B. Ferguson, I. Ferguson, Albert, Wallace, Johansson. Parma (probable, 3-4-1-2): Buffon; Sartor, Thurin, Consiglieri, Stancu, Boghosian, Baggio, Benarrivo, Veron; Crespo, Balbo.

Turner quits Man City job

MANCHESTER City's £100,000-a-year chief executive Mike Turner quit yesterday at a meeting with the club's chairman David Bernstein, who has promised to cut costs at the Second Division club.

Bernstein will play a bigger role in the running of the club until a replacement is found for Turner, 52, who wants to "pursue other interests."

Carlo Colombotti, a London-based Italian lawyer, has become chairman of Sheffield United yesterday, succeeding Mike McDermott, who stepped down. Colombotti repeated the "sell before you buy" rule to the manager Steve Bruce. The club announced a £5 million loss last year.

Pools Forecast

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

- 1 Chelsea v Everton
- 2 Chelsea v Charlton
- 3 Coventry v Leeds
- 4 Aston Villa v Manchester City
- 5 Tottenham v Arsenal
- 6 West Ham v Liverpool

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

- 1 Bradford City v Bristol City
- 2 Barnet v Bury
- 3 Grimsby v Luton
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SECOND DIVISION

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Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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CALLS COST 60p PER MIN. AT ALL TIMES.

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Results

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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- 2 Chelsea v Charlton
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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

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Football

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

- 1 Chelsea v Everton
- 2 Chelsea v Charlton
- 3 Coventry v Leeds
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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

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Ice Hockey

SUPERLEAGUE BRIDGEMAN

- 1 Chelsea v Everton
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NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

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Cricket

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Overseas football

SUPERLEAGUE BRIDGEMAN

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Burns poised for first home victory



Road to nowhere... Colin McRae's Subaru cruises through the Myherin stage in Wales, only to be forced out of the Rally of Great Britain with engine failure

OLIVE MASON

McRae's hopes go up in puff of oil smoke

David Williams in South Wales

COLIN McRAE's eight-year relationship with Subaru expired with a bang and a whimper here yesterday, and his 1999 replacement Richard Burns is poised to win a gruelling Rally of Great Britain for the first time as a result.

Until the engine expired with a clatter and a belch of smoke, McRae looked like gaining the upper hand in a duel with Burns which had carried them half a minute clear of the pack. The younger man was fastest on the day's first three stages in his Mitsubishi and had the temerity to go ahead when McRae spun twice in Tywi Forest. The Scot reckoned he had

chosen the wrong tyres, but there was no denying he had a fight on his hands. Burns faltered on the next stage, sliding off momentarily at the top of Esgrif Dyfford, but McRae's hopes plunged as his lead grew. Although the Subaru was visibly quicker, the engine had lost its edge and a broken piston ended a display that had transfixed the crowds.

"On the last few stages we were taking time out of Richard no problem. It's a bad end to a bad year," said a disconsolate McRae, who has not won since June. An edgy Burns was handed a slim lead over Carlos Sainz and Didier Auriol, but finished the day heading Alister McRae in the surviving Subaru by more than a minute, after the Toyota challenge

wilted. Sainz was delayed when he shot up an escape road for 100 yards yesterday evening, and Auriol was forced to retire with broken transmission after the day's penultimate stage. So Sainz lay fourth overnight, behind Juha Kankkunen's Ford but still on course for the world drivers' title. "I'm probably under more pressure now," Burns

said afterwards. "Tomorrow's a long day, a lot of corners and a lot of mud." Auriol's departure means Burns will clinch the manufacturers' crown for Mitsubishi if he wins, while the younger McRae has salvaged some family pride by fixing a faulty turbo that would otherwise have dropped him out of the points.

Rugby Union

Dallaglio set for England return

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND are poised to restore Lawrence Dallaglio to their line-up for Saturday's international against Australia at Twickenham. The injured England captain, who suffered knee ligament damage playing for Wasps at Northampton 17 days ago, will undergo a fitness test at this morning's squad session at Roehampton. Ultimately the decision on whether to make his first Test appearance of the season will rest with Dallaglio, who has made "steady progress" since being ruled out of the 110-0 World Cup qualifying victory against Holland.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, has been keen to get the flanker to a full-time back row which looked far from convincing in Sunday's 23-15 win over Italy. Woodward may also recall the Sale wing David Rees, who appeared to have made a full recovery from his long-standing groin injury in Sunday's Premiership defeat by Wasps, only his second game in two months.

Rees, one of the England coach's most admired per-

formers, made a powerful all-round contribution, supplying the scoring pass for the first of Sale's three tries. He could replace the versatile Austin Healey. Woodward, together with the forwards' coach John Mitchell, will also have to consider whether to give Tim Rother and Graham Rowntree, who both performed solidly as substitutes for the final half-hour of the Italy game, their first England starts this season.

Richard Hill, a back-row substitute, must also come into the reckoning in view of England's lack of continuity which stemmed from the "loose forwards" inability to recycle second-phase possession. Woodward is expected to name his side at Twickenham tomorrow while Australia, who defeated France 32-21 in Paris on Saturday, plan to announce their line-up today.

Rudi Strauß, Bedford's

Golf

When being No.1 is just not enough

David Davies in Tokyo finds the winning Lee Westwood seeking a century of victories

LEE WESTWOOD is an extremely ambitious young man. The ambition is fuelled by the fact that he is aware of the exceptional talent he possesses, yet it is tempered by a modesty amounting almost to diffidence.

Hence his difficulty after winning, in succession, the Taiheyo Masters for the third time on the trot and, on Sunday, the Dunlop Phoenix here in Japan, his 13th victory in the last 27 months and achieved while still only 25 years old.

His previous aim was to become, at some stage, No.1 in the world rankings. Given his progress over the last two years that was clearly possible, for his record of pecking order justifies the word meteoric. This time last year he was worried about being in the top 64 so as to qualify for world championship events. Now he is in the top 10, which is currently 7th.

But now that place is within his grasp, Westwood is not too concerned with the rankings. For, in conversation with his manager "Chubby" Chandler, an awful truth dawned. "It's not much good," he said, "is it, having No.1 in the world as your only ambition? I mean, what happens when you get there? There's nowhere to go then."

So simple but so true. As a result Westwood has rearranged his career aims. Top place still figures but only as a consequence of hitting the new targets he has set, which are to win as many majors as possible but also 100 tournaments worldwide.

There is no hint of arrogance in this revised ambition, more an awareness of what is possible if he applies, as he has in the past, all his determination to his abundant talent.

It is, though, a huge task in an era where the strength in depth has never been so strong or so deep. To win 100 tournaments would leave

most of the world's great players trailing. Only Sam Snead, from gentler times, claims more than 100 victories. He won 81 times on the US Tour, and other unnamed events take his total to 135.

Jack Nicklaus had 70 Tour wins and 14 others worldwide and of those most nearly his contemporaries, Greg Norman has 73 worldwide and Tom Watson 42. Nick Faldo manages 33.

But Westwood is a golfer with a gift for winning. Chandler says: "There are people who are good at winning and he's one of them. It's a natural commodity in him. He's an exceptional young gentleman. I can see something of Ernie Els and something of Jack Nicklaus in him on the golf course."

"While he is over the ball, just for that minute, concentrating on his shot, he's like Jack and the rest of the time he's like Ernie, relaxed, chatting away."

Westwood's current strike rate of a win every 24 months is amazing and the reason he did not win the Volvo Rankings this year is because, as he says of his New Orleans victory, "I was one tournament on the wrong tour."

He also had a brief mid-season slump and, while he lasted only a month or so, there are plans to ensure it does not happen again. Chandler says: "We may try and play a segmented season, have three seasons in one: the tourna-

ments up to the Masters, then the Open, then a break, and the same up to the US PGA."

This would make sense because Westwood plays one of the longest seasons and he is frequently in contention, both of which are energy-draining.

It might also help Westwood become European No.1, still an ambition, although without heavy emphasis. "He had promised himself a Ferrari if he won the Volvo Rankings," said Chandler, "and, although he could easily afford it anyway, when he didn't win, he didn't buy. Instead he spent £50,000 on a Range Rover and then had a guilty conscience for spending that much money when he hadn't become No.1."

Not that the money should worry Westwood. So far this year, worldwide, he has won more than \$2.4 million (£1.4m) on the golf course and made, says Chandler, "at least the same amount on tour."

Westwood plans to play most of his golf in Europe next year, with no more than nine tournaments in America. Asked why he would ignore the \$3 million events on the US Tour, Westwood said the money itself was not important. "Quality of life is important. Getting home on Sunday night is important. Different countries and customs, like pasta in Italy, beer in Germany, Rioja in Spain, and sushi and sake in Japan, they're all important."

"I don't like playing in the US. I like the courses, the players, the conditions, but I can't get home on Sunday night. This is going to sound profound but it's not meant to be: playing in a US Tour event is like going to work while Europe feels like a way of life."

As for next season, it is obviously difficult to set targets after a year in which one has won seven times and made oneself immeasurably wealthy. But said Westwood, "I'm looking forward to the Million Dollar Challenge in two weeks, I'm looking forward to getting married in January, I'm looking forward to next season's majors, in fact, in my life at the moment, there's not a lot not to look forward to."

Westwood... £1.4m this year



Rose fails final exam

Michael Britten at San Roque

GRADUATION day turned sour for Justin Rose when he ended the PGA European Tour Qualifying School with a final round of 80. The 18-year-old from Hampshire, who captured the imagination by taking fourth place as an amateur in the Open Championship in July, finished 73rd of the 80 competitors who completed the 108-hole examination, when he returned a 14-over-par aggregate of 446.

That was 21 strokes behind the winner Ross Drummond and nine too many for one of the 38 who advanced to next year's European Tour. Rose had begun the last round believing he needed a 69 to graduate, although 71 would have sufficed because of the onset of a swirling west wind and the usual last-day mayhem.

Three bogeys in the last four holes of an outward 40 from the 10th put the target beyond his reach and, when he dropped two more shots in the first five home holes, the rest were academic. Rose looked tired and dispirited when he hooked out of bounds for a triple-bogey seven at the 8th. Holding from 25 feet to eagle the last was no consolation.

"I am upset because I came to get my card but I will get over it," said Rose, who will shortly take up invitations to the Australian and New Zealand Opens.

The experienced Drummond, who tied on 425 with the Swede Henrik Nilsson but was pronounced school champion because of his superior final 72, commented: "I thought Justin would have made it. But there is a big difference between amateur and professional golf and I think he has realised that now."

Rose will start next season as a category 13 Tour member, eligible to compete on the Challenge Tour and in whatever senior events his ranking permits. His principal opportunities will come from an unlimited number of sponsor's invitations and, with a Maxfli contract worth £800,000 over the next three years already in his pocket, the future still looks rosy.

Stephen Dodd was the only other Briton in the top 10 but the former Ryder Cup player Steven Richardson and three other tournament winners, Stephen Bennett, Robert Lee and Richard Boxall, all regained places on the Tour.

Cricket

Warne keeps his hand in for Boxing Day

Paul Allott finds Australia's spinner still aiming to take part in the series

SHANE WARNE has covered some miles during this Test match. He was commenting for Channel Nine last Friday and yesterday but at the weekend he whizzed back to Melbourne to play for his home side St Kilda. Club cricket is an essential part of Warne's rehabilitation after his shoulder injury and the subsequent operation he hopes will not only save but prolong his career.

So far he has played three games for St Kilda and one state game for Victoria against Western Australia at Perth. The shoulder is getting better but was stiff and sore after 18 overs on Saturday. His batting is okay — he has a century under his belt — but he was run out in Perth and Victoria lost by two runs. Things have not been going well in the commentary box either, where he has taken a battering from Ian Botham.

Warne and Botham are great friends, both heroes, both worshipped worldwide and both larger-than-life characters. Botham was as essential to England's success in the Eighties as Warne has been to Australia's in the Nineties. There is no doubt that Australia still need Warne.

Certainly the crowd at The Gabba wanted Warne, one banner proclaiming: "I'd pay \$22 for this ticket and where's Warne?" Mark Taylor probably thought the same as Warne's understudy, Stuart MacGill, had an off day.

If the public and media pressure on Warne is mounting for him to accelerate his comeback, this Ashes series, then it is not showing on the man.

He is determined to follow his slowly, slowly regime and is looking to the Melbourne Test on Boxing Day for his comeback. But he is adamant that, if the shoulder is not

completely right then, he will not play. In his mind there must be a nagging doubt that he just might never be the bowler he once was.

Outwardly, though, Warne is jovial and amiable as ever. He looks immaculate in shirt and tie, hair spikily gelled, blue eyes glinting and a packet of cigarettes clasped in his right hand. They will not be there much longer, however, as Warne is to be the central figure in a stop smoking campaign beginning in January — from 40 a day to nothing overnight but no one should doubt his resolve.

Underneath the veneer, though, Warne is a man of simple pleasures. Last week at an informal dinner for the commentators from Channel Nine and Sky Sports, held at an expensive restaurant in Brisbane, Warne cast a disdainful eye over a menu of the most exotic fare and proceeded to order a ham and pineapple pizza, vanilla ice cream and a beer.

During dinner he said he could not believe England had omitted a left-arm spinner of Phil Tufnell's ability or even Ian Salisbury, the leg-spinner. Variety, he considers, is the essential element in any bowling attack and is especially necessary in Australia where the pitches provide bounce as well as turn. The only exception, he says, may be at Perth and he reckons that an off-spinner is a more productive bet than a leggie because of the breeze. It is an interesting theory and one that may please England with a resurgent Robert Croft in their ranks.

Warne left Brisbane early this morning to prepare for another Sheffield Shield game on Thursday in Melbourne. He will be in Perth, though, for the end of the second Test, Channel Nine want him there and the Australian public need their fix. If he cannot see him on the field, his best commentator is the next best thing. But it will not be long before he is back to torment the England batsmen.

The best Christmas present all Australia can hope for is for Warne to return for the Boxing Day Test.

Cronje unsettles Windies morale

HANSIE CRONJE led Free State to a remarkable two-wicket victory against the West Indians in Bloemfontein yesterday.

South Africa's captain guided Free State from their overnight score of 412 for eight to a winning total of 438 and finished unbeaten on 158, including 14 fours and six sixes.

It took the home side 6.4 overs on the fourth day to complete a victory that had seemed out of the question when they were skittled out for 67 in their first innings.

The result was a blow to West Indian morale before the first Test against South

Africa which starts on Thursday in Johannesburg. It was the second match running in which the tourists had allowed the opposition to score more than 400 runs in their second innings — the first occasion was in the drawn game against Griqualand West — and West Indies' captain Brian Lara admitted it was "something we will have to look at".

To make matters worse for them the leg-spinner Dinesh Ramnarine, who took three for 138 in 29 overs in the second innings, has a shoulder injury and they may have to call for a replacement.

Ice Hockey

Steelers eye Heywood

We Batchelder

SHEFFIELD STEELERS are expected to sign the highly rated Canadian forward Jason Heywood from the British National League side Paisley today, 24 hours after withdrawing all four of their players from a Great Britain squad training camp in Cardiff.

Their manager David Simms, claiming Sheffield are at "a crossroads", announced the move after Sunday's 7-4 defeat by Newcastle. That left them bottom of Superleague with seven points from 11 games and facing "probably the two most important games in our eight-year franchise history this weekend".

Both are at home and both must be won. "I find it unacceptable that our team would only practise together once before these games if the four players concerned travelled to Cardiff," added Simms. Steelers, British League and Championship double winners in successive seasons to 1996, won the inaugural Superleague play-off championship the following year but have since failed to land any honours, finishing sixth last season.

Long-term injuries have hampered efforts to restore the side's winning ways and dampened hopes raised in the summer by a cash injection. Victory tonight at home to Bolzano could make Manchester Britain's first side to reach the European League play-offs.

Snooker

Harold cruises into last eight

DAVE HAROLD reached his third successive quarter-final by defeating the world No.5 Mark Williams at the UK Championships yesterday.

Harold, ranked 19 in the world, won 9-4 to set up a meeting with Ken Doherty or Fergal O'Brien for a place in the last four. Harold reached the Benson & Hedges Championship final and was semi-finalist at the Grand Prix.

The match resumed with Harold leading 5-3 and he followed a clearance of 32 in the 10th frame with a break of 105 in the next.

"It's no good getting to semi-finals and finals and then losing," the 31-year-old said.

"I've got to go on and start winning these tournaments and give myself that extra bit of confidence that has perhaps been missing from my game."

"I don't mind being the underdog. I know my game is as good as anyone's who I'm playing well."

The world champion John Higgins posted the highest break of the championship with a 141 clearance in the first frame against Terry Murphy and won the first session 5-3.

Matthew Couch reached the quarter-finals with a 9-5 victory over Michael Holt. Couch is guaranteed a cheque for £10,000, easily the best of his six-year professional career.

He now meets the Welshman Matthew Stevens or Rod Lawler of Liverpool.

American football

Elway breaks 50,000 mark as Broncos drive for Bowl

Mark Tran in New York

JOHN ELWAY is going out with a flourish, hurling past one milestone after another as he tries to win the Super Bowl again for the Denver Broncos.

He is more prone to injury at the age of 38 and with retirement almost a certainty after this season. On Sunday, though, he became only the second quarterback in NFL history, along with Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins, to throw for 50,000 yards as the Broncos crushed the best team the Oakland Raiders have fielded for years 40-14. Two questions remain for the Broncos this season: can they win back-to-back Super Bowls and can they go the whole season undefeated?

Only the Miami Dolphins managed a perfect 16-0 season, in 1972. The way Denver are playing it seems a distinct possibility.

The Raiders have finally played up to their potential this season and have fared well against the Broncos in the past. But they were overpowered by this mighty team that can rip through defences behind Terrell Davis on the ground and pick them apart.

In the air, Elway threw for three TDs as the Broncos rolled into overtime in the final quarter, converting three interceptions thrown by Donald Hollas.

Until Sunday's game at Mile High the Raiders — the NFL's second-ranked defence — had allowed only two TDs in the fourth quarter all season. Elway finished with a modest total of 187 yards but the important thing was breaking the 50,000 barrier. To roars from the crowd he breached the magic number in the first quarter with a five-yarder to Willie Green on his fourth completion of the day.

"It took so long to get to. The last 30 yards seemed like it took a year," Elway said. "It's a thrill to get there and it's a compliment not only to me but to this organisation and all the guys I've played with. I can remember looking at Fran Tarkenton and seeing how he had 47,000 and thought there was no way."

"He's still got it," said Neil Smith, the defensive end. "A lot of people say he's washed up and can't take the hits but I'll tell you what, he's our quarterback and we love him to death. He makes things happen for us."

Final win rekindles Davies' ambition for top spot

Elisabeth Burnside in Las Vegas

AURA DAVIES has promised to stop complaining about her putting and start a climb back to the top of the world rankings following her win in the PageNet Tour Championship in Las Vegas that

took her 10-year career earnings in America to more than \$2.4 million.

Having ended a 20-month spell without a win in the United States with an outstanding victory in the final event of the season, the 36-year-old Briton said: "A miserable year has suddenly become a great one. This is the perfect spring-

board for 1999. My mental attitude hasn't been at its best but this is a magnificent and-of-season bonus and now perhaps I'll stop whining about my putting."

"Getting back to No.1 [held by Annika Sorenstam] is the ultimate goal," she added after the win at Desert Inn with an 11-under-par 277.

Agassi in doubt for Hanover bonanza, page 13
Redknapp in frame for Blackburn job, page 14

Engine damage forces McRae out, page 15
Rose fails his final exam, page 15

SportsGuardian

Australia regain initiative in Brisbane

First Ashes Test
Australia v England

McGrath spell puts curse on England

Mike Selvey in Brisbane

FIRST Glenn McGrath, then Michael Slater: after a third day of euphoria at Mark Butcher's century the reality

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA First innings 405 (1 A Healy 134, S R Waugh 112, D W Fleming 71; 2nd 215, 319, 360, 375)
ENGLAND First innings (overnight 209-4)
G P Thorpe c Langer b McGrath 77
M R Ramprakash not out 66
D G Cork c MacGill b McGrath 53
R O B Croft b Kasprowicz 23
Q Oough low b McGrath 0
A Q Mullally c Kasprowicz b McGrath 0
A R C Fraser c M E Waugh b McGrath 1
Extras (b1, lb1, nb1) 23

AUSTRALIA Second innings
M J Slater c S R Waugh 113
M A Taylor b Cork 9
J L Langer c Mullally b Croft 74
M E Waugh not out 27
S R Waugh not out 14
Extras (b1, lb1, nb1) 7

ENGLAND Second innings
M A Butcher not out 7
M A Anderson not out 14
Extras (b1, lb1, nb1) 7

of Ashes cricket hit home at The Gabba yesterday as England were hung out to dry in the sun like a hunk of kangaroo jerky. McGrath the Enforcer, a magnificent fast bowler up there in the pantheon alongside any that Australia has produced, simply blew the England lower order away in the morning session. A spell of five for nine in 35 balls — he took six for 85 in all — left Mark Ramprakash unbeaten on 66 and, not for the first time, stranded by the ineptness of a tall that, Robert Croft excepted here, collapses when someone of authority goes "boo" at them, England were all out for 375, the last six wickets tumbling for 60.

Australia began their second innings with an advantage of 110 and gave Slater, an assassin in such circumstances, carte blanche to subject the England attack to death by a thousand strokes. It was magnificent stuff, a full and extravagant display of shot-making. In 130 deliveries, before he offered a tame return catch to Angus Fraser, Slater hit 113.

When he scampered through for the single that took him to his ninth Test century, his celebrations, always a reflection of the pure joy he gains from batting, barely stopped short of running straight out of the ground and embarking on an



Point made... Mark Ramprakash looks on as Glenn McGrath directs Dominic Cork, one of his six victims, back to the pavilion after Stuart MacGill caught the England batsman, attempting to pull, at mid-on. PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRUFFINS

open-top bus ride through a ticker-tape welcome in downtown Brisbane.

England's howlers were blasted to bits. Darren Gough's pride in bowling fast for England and Yorkshire took a severe dent as three successive deliveries in his second over were dispatched to three different points of the boundary and the last five of the six overs he bowled con-

ceded 49 runs. Later Fraser was slogged back over his head and kicked the turf so violently that he might have loosened his fillings. In all Slater hit 13 fours and a straight six back over Croft's head and high into the Clem Jones Stand.

After Dominic Cork had howled Mark Taylor for nought via the inside edge, Slater and Justin Langer

added 162 for the second wicket — an Australian record for an Ashes match on this ground — with Langer going on to make 74 good runs before he launched Croft towards long-on and was caught by Alan Mullally. So well did Australia progress that Taylor felt able to declare on 237 for three, leaving England seven overs, a full final day and a couple of overs added on to make up time lost, to make 349 to win, around 3.5 runs per over. By the close Mike Atherton (55) and Mark Butcher (seven) had made a good start, reaching 26 without loss.

But Taylor knows his cricket history and understood that the record books would need to be rewritten. No side has made as many in the fourth innings to win in Australia, nor England anywhere.

If McGrath was unable to have the final say as the evening closed in on a 7½-hour playing day, then the morning belonged to him. Graham Thorpe and Ramprakash had taken their fifth-wicket stand to 75 when he struck for the first time, inducing a hook

shot from Thorpe that lacked control. Langer took the catch by the square-leg umpire and it opened up the tail. Dominic Cork, entrusted with batting at seven, was subjected to an over of short-pitched deliveries, liberally garnished with invective, and the batsman rose to the bait, attempting a pull stroke when discretion was called for and lobbing a gentle catch to mid-on. McGrath told him his fortune and sent him on his way.

Croft — whose batting woes of the past two years were induced by McGrath's aggression in England — played well for Ramprakash for almost an hour, seeing him to a composed half-century before Michael Kasprowicz pegged back his leg-stump.

The rest was short and not very sweet, with Gough lbw without scoring. Mullally sky-ing a catch to mid-wicket after idly trying to pull his first ball and Fraser, having survived the hat-trick ball and a shout for lbw, gloving a catch to second slip. Croft had made 23, his four tail-mates one between them.

Paul Elliott, page 15

Keeper of the faith loses self-belief



Jim White

PETER SCHMEICHEL has enjoyed many occasions which have increased his reputation — if not as the world's best goalkeeper, then certainly as the one with the reddest nose. There was the save he produced against Rapid Vienna in the Champions League, a scooping dive to rival Gordon Banks' Pele-buster. There was the night at St James' Park in 1996 when he single-handedly undermined George's self-belief.

And then there was the moment early in his Old Trafford career, a save against Sheffield Wednesday captured in a great photograph as he hangs horizontal in the air, four feet above the ground, and apparently about 15 feet long. The most striking feature of the snap, however, is that his mouth is wide open, as he yells vitriol at a round leather thing for having invaded his personal space.

But the game which gave the Schmeichel legend its biggest boost was one he set out. It was the previous occasion, almost four years ago to the day, that Manchester United travelled to Barcelona in a Champions League game.

Then, as now, the fixture at Old Trafford had been a pulsating score draw. Back then there was a heady whiff of optimism in the United party, a scent picked up by the travelling press: in the pre-match sweepstake only two among more than 20 British journalists backed Barcelona to win — this despite the fact that in those days of rules governing the number of foreign players allowed in European competitions Alex Ferguson was never at his best wrestling with his permutations.

Certainly the United squad looked happy the night before the game when they trained at the Nou Camp, Ferguson even relaxed enough to allow Mick Hucknall to kick a ball around with the lads. And Hucknall, whose chest measurement seemed about half the circumference of Roy Keane's calves, loved his moment, particularly when he scored past the reserve keeper Gary Walsh. "Bloody hell, Walsley,"

Little did observers know at the time that Walsh was going to play the next night, with Schmeichel the unlucky foreigner to sit in the stands — although, as it turned out, perhaps not so unlucky. It was a good game to miss because United were taken apart by Barcelona. Walsh was not directly at fault but in the autopsies the implication was clear: without Schmeichel, Ferguson had half a team.

Indeed there were plenty who pointed out that there is a fundamental football rule the manager broke that night: always field your strongest keeper.

The Barca rout cemented Schmeichel's status as crucial to his team's welfare. For the next four years he remained virtually a constant. His spells of absence through injury often coinciding with blips in team form.

He brought to his teammates the confidence to know that, if they made a mistake, it was unlikely to lead to a goal, the worst consequence would be a volcanic eruption of abuse (for a Viking Schmeichel's grasp of Anglo-Saxon is exemplary). Even this, frankly, was not too much of a problem as he routinely gave them a bigger bollocking for doing well.

Schmeichel was not, however, infallible. As the cricketers engaged in hostility in Australia will tell you monotonously, sport is all about mental toughness. And he seems to be a player who, on the rare occasion he falters, does so first in his mind.

For a man of such huge physical advantages, he can look suddenly vulnerable, particularly when carrying an injury. His error against Bayern Munich in the Champions League in September was not his first mistake of the season but it has obviously taken on a wider significance in his head.

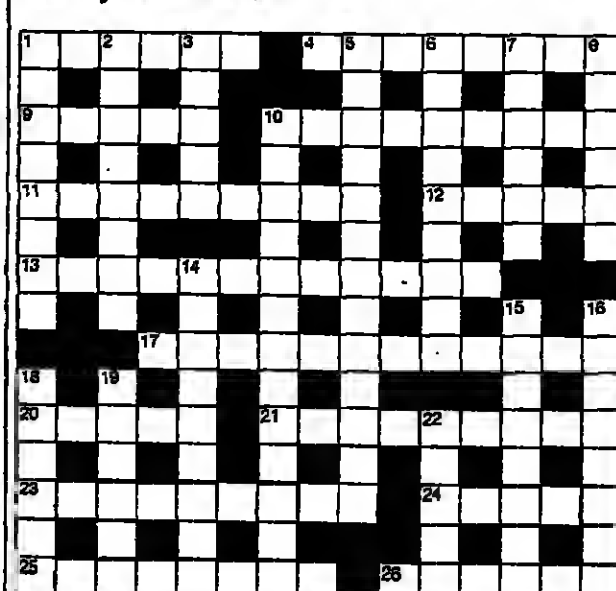
L

ike his erstwhile chess partner Eric Cantona, he does not want to be diminished by waning physical powers, hence his announcement of impending retirement. It is taking him longer and longer, he said, to prepare for the hurly-burly of the Premiership, something which he proved on Saturday when he got himself ready in time only for the second half against Sheffield Wednesday.

Throughout the first half he played as if the seed of doubt in his head was developing into a forest. And tomorrow Schmeichel returns to the Nou Camp, the place from which he emerged so enhanced. Let us hope Signors Anderson, Rivaldo and Luis Enrique do not make him wish he had retired before he actually had to play there.

Guardian Crossword No 21,440

Set by Bunthorne

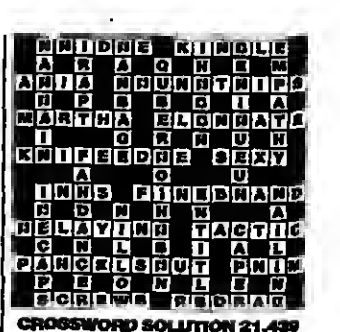


Across

- 1 Rats' arena has reverted to a sun god (6)
- 4 Square and street in old Damascus (8)
- 9 Hard worker spending little time in study (5)
- 10 Sweet sixteen and 'e is in the local, wearing aftershave (9)
- 11 To which all holds are barred? (4-5)
- 12 Man could be following a religious passage (5)
- 13 Not above using props (12)
- 17 Whimsical ancient undertakings near Tom Cruise performance (12)
- 20 An audience with royalty? (5)
- 21 Penalty so exacted for tissue replacement (8)
- 23 Demonstration by body snatcher for one at that tea-party (5,4)

Down

- 24 Tossed in one pound pancake (5)
- 25 Obliquely viewing team tactics (6)
- 26 Consumer of fodder in the field (6)
- 1 Not in front of the limpanil (4,4)
- 2 Headless Florentine patron found as health-boss turns up murder (8)
- 3 Arcane orange-peelers hold their territory (5)
- 5 I.e. the 15 (2,2,2,2,2)
- 6 Don't know poor lads? Tara! (8)
- 7 Speak of precious stone (6)
- 8 Lead to terminal desperation (6)
- 10,15 Its putting might nail a querist with PR money. Tal (13,6)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,439

- 14 "What The Butler Saw" fit for war heroes? (5-4)
- 15 See 10
- 16 Byron's came down to fold socks? On the contrary! (8)
- 18 This US detective has failed to recapitulate (6)
- 19 Rank set free (6)
- 22 Upset the balance in bar billiards (5)

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In the dream, the growth in my mouth explodes, taking out a window in Row 39. Luckily, Michael Winner, who is sitting next to me, is sucked into it, neatly plugging the gap. Diary of a hypochondriac

G2 p11

سكيا من الامم

Television and radio

The weather in Europe
Mildly rainy

[illegible]

It was a common experience for authors to find themselves promoting their work without books to sell. "Sam O'Brien went on tour and ordered his books for the events. He finally received one copy—on the last day,"

with no problems."

Forecasted in everyone's mind is the fact that, to Shapcott, the work, already sold well, has a new volume on, *A. J. Life Asks: A Poetry Book Society recommendation and a \$3 Million Prize. It is guaranteed an increase of sales. But there's a real danger that this much-lauded book will be unavailable to those who love to read.*



Photography: Massimo Sestini

gathered at first glance; the neat, greying crew cut, the sportswear-blinging around the wiry, athletic build, the sharp, bespectacled gaze and the technical specifics of the speech.

Certainly, Jorgensen doesn't possess the physical flamboyance many would expect from a leading *avant-garde* choreographer, and from a man whose alternative re-write of classical dance has caused him to be labeled the "Antichrist" of the ballet world. Yet ever since he became director of Ballet Frankfurt in 1984, his job descrip-

gentle, courtliness and romance, a large space in brutal lines, encouraging dancers to violate every code of decorum. The dancing was a "wasteful disorder," a style that wrenched apart the orderly positions of ballet at the joints, teetered wildly off balance and left dancers in brutal lines, encouraging dancers to violate every code of decorum.

The dispragmatic view of this style has been that it is ballet trillornade for the post-modern era, nourished by politically correct theory and pumped up by glossy athleticism. In Britain, where audiences have seen little more than the four works acquired by The Royal Ballet, this opinion has been

When I spoke to Forsythe during the summer, however, I was interested by the speed with which he voiced similar reservation. "Most ballroom dancers fall into this style when they perform any work," he explained, but

long, relaxed body suddenly flinged with exasperation. "They're very, very interested, but the movement is hard for them technically, and they aren't always properly crouched. It should be a delightful challenge, but a lot of dancers see it as a posy competition. They acquire these very hard personalties that I find horrible to watch." In fact, when Ballett Frankfurt

one today, audiences may find that their perceptions of Forsythe and his work shift in several ways. His stylized, for instance, appears much more textured and humane when performed by his own dancers, and in recent works they've even become part of the choreographic process. Forsythe now solicits his dancers' input, which he shapes into the finished work. "I pay them for what they contribute

As well as bringing a more authentic view of the style to London, these frankfurt dancers will bring a more varied repertory. Since the mid-1990s, Paris's *flou* work has changed radically:

encounters in which the dancers relaying to one other in seeming love and possession, before being sucked away by the inexorable dynamic of the choreography. It is set to Gavin Bryars's score, John Alford Newson's score, John Alford Newson's score.

There are

5-year-olds who want to dance ballet, but who also watch MTV'

While Forsythe can be surprisingly opaque, he's just as likely to be flirty, funny and vivid. When I quiz him about some specially dense con-

[illegible]

There is a pragmatist, a man of the street and an ordinary dad. When he is about what he calls his "artist" image — strongest among students who are outraged by teachers who are outraged by students' defection from the classroom — he says simply, "Listen to your children. There are 15-year-olds who still want to dance but who also watch MTV."

Frankfurt is at Sadler's Wells, London, on an amazing break dance: I'm second of her. Why would I want to do ballet when I see the kind of sexy she does. It's lethal and ng-, but it's very joyful, which is just at the heart of dancing."

a trav

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Sandra Ford sa Violetta / **F**